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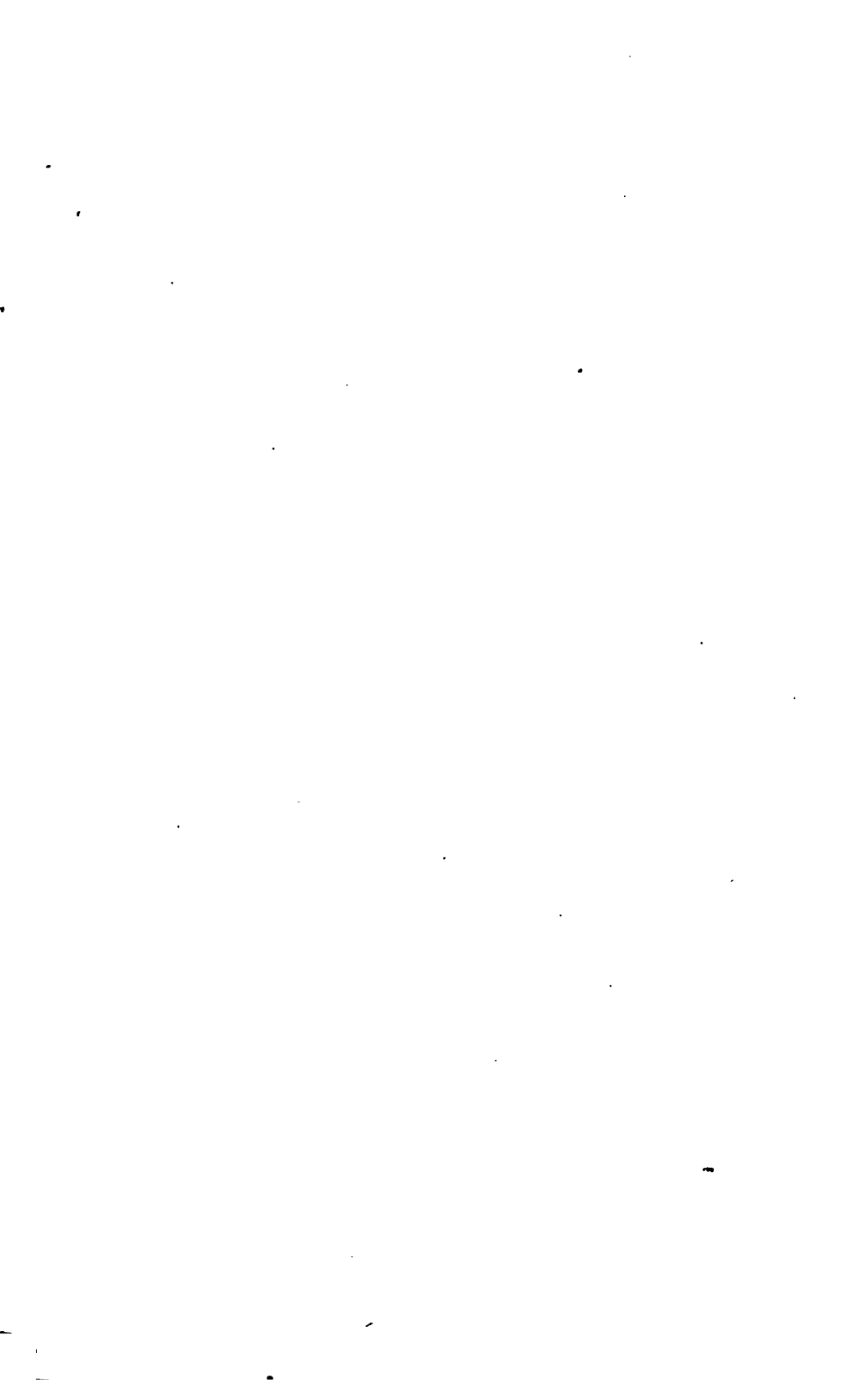
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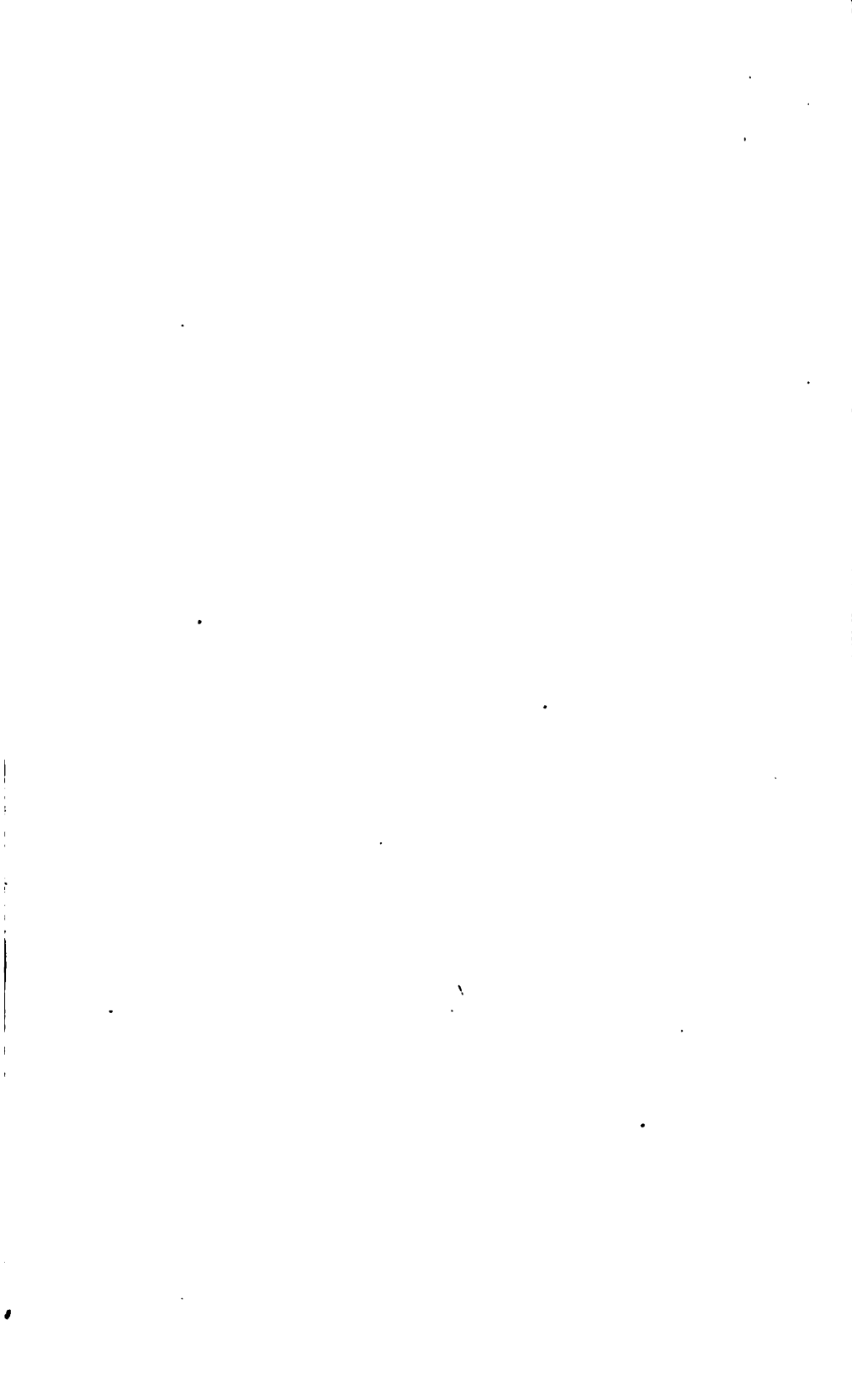
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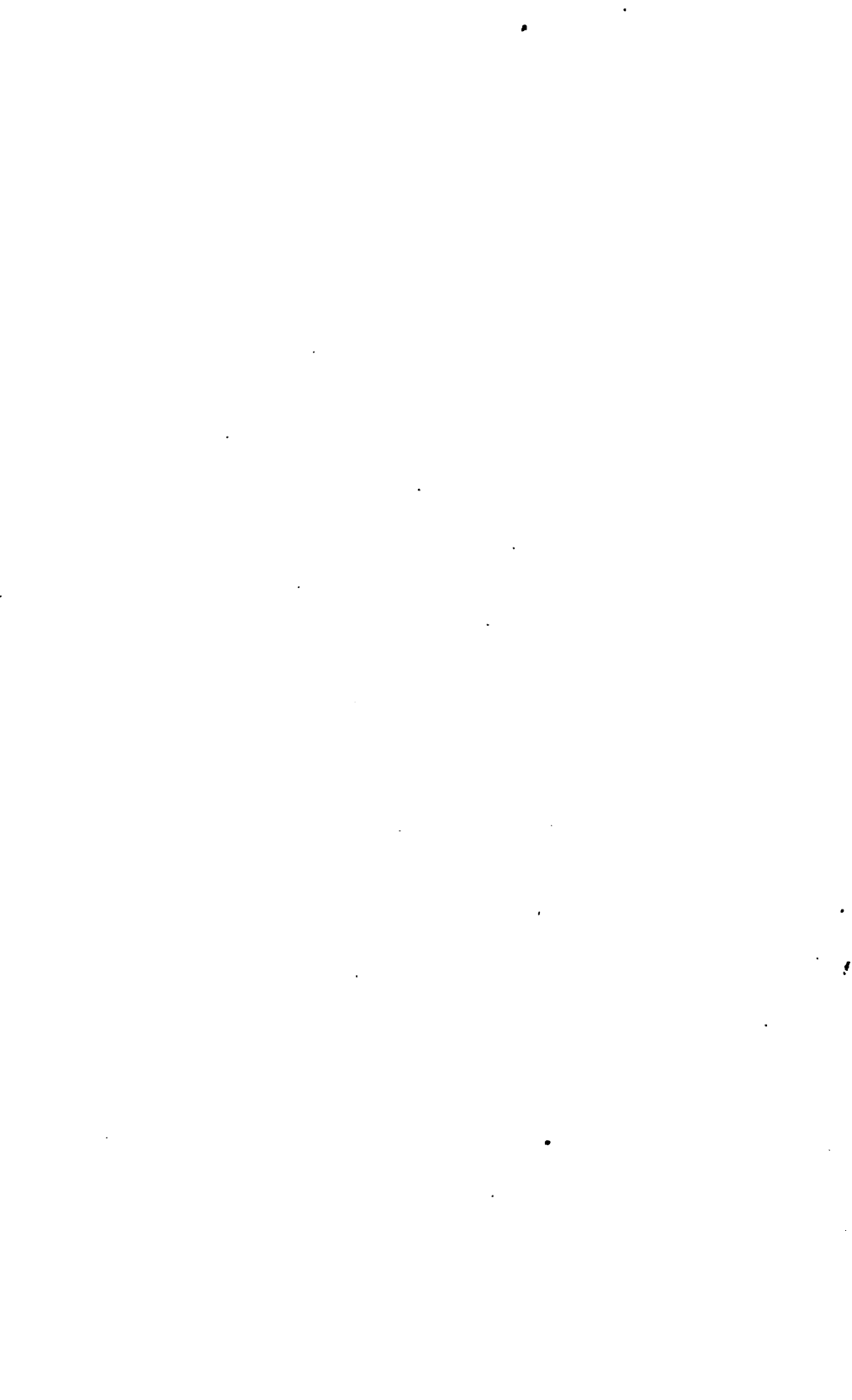
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SIR JOHN HOTNAM.

THE
LIVES AND PORTRAITS

OF

Remarkable Characters,

DRAWN

FROM THE MOST AUTHENTIC SOURCES.

A NEW EDITION.

"Virtuous or vicious every man must be,
Few in the extremes, but all in the degree."

POPE.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

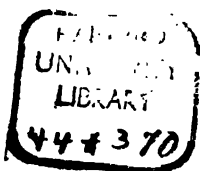
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LIFE

OF

SIR JOHN HOTHAM,

GOVERNOR OF HULL.

THIS unfortunate gentleman was descended from an ancient family, named De Trehouse, the founder of which, for his good services at the battle of Hastings, had a grant from the Conqueror, of the castle and manors of Colley-Weston, Northampton, and Hotham in Yorkshire.

The fourth, in a direct descent, Peter de Trehouse, from his constant residence at Hotham, assumed that surname, which his descendants ever after retained.

The subject of the present article, Sir John Hotham, was created baronet by King James I. January 4, 1621; but, at the commencement of the civil wars, he adhered to the parliament, and was appointed Governor of Hull. On the 23d

of April, 1642, Charles I. came before the town, attended by a vast number of the nobility and gentry, when, contrary to all expectation, especially the King, his entrance was denied, and the gates shut against him, as Sir John Hotham, then upon the wall, peremptorily told him, by authority of parliament, by whose trust he kept it; nor could he, by any means, after a long parley, be prevailed upon to reverse the orders of the parliament. This so enraged the king, that he caused Hotham to be immediately proclaimed a traitor. The Duke of York and the Prince Elector Henry Frederick had gone into the town the day before, but were, after some deliberation, suffered to go out again and join the king, who, obtaining no satisfaction from his addresses to the parliament against Hotham, soon after erected his standard at Nottingham, and commenced the war, which cost him his crown and life.

Although he ventured so far in the service of his masters at Westminster, it appears they never reposed implicit trust in him, as they kept spies upon all his actions, among whom was his own son; but, both intriguing with the Marquis of

Newcastle, upon a design to deliver up Hull to the king's party, the correspondence was discovered, and both father and son were taken prisoners, and sent to the Tower.

When brought to trial, he endeavoured to evade the charge, and produced some witnesses of quality, on purpose to take off the testimony of the evidence against him, but failed in the proofs. He then insisted on the great service he had done before at Hull, from which he expected honor and preferment: his disappointment in this respect seems to have induced him to join the king's interest.

He received sentence of death on the 27th of December, 1644, and was ordered for execution on the 31st, on Tower-hill, where a great multitude was assembled round the scaffold to witness the scene; but, as he was on his way thither, a reprieve came from the lords for four days, which the commons so resented, conceiving their privilege invaded, that they ordered he should die on the 2d of January, which accordingly took place, (his son suffering the day before for the same offence.) They both departed this life with much reluctance, and, at the awful moment when all the apparatus of death was before them, they


could not refrain from throwing out some severe aspersions.

Pennant, in his account of London, gives a long detail of persons executed on Tower-hill, but has most unaccountably omitted the two Hothams.

Sir John Hotham fell unpitied by both parties, as true to neither, and one in whom no confidence could be placed. King Charles mentioning him, says, "That which makes me more pity him is, that, after he began to have some inclination to repentance for his sin, and a reparation of his duty to me, he should be so unhappy as to fall into the hand of their justice and not my mercy, who could as willingly have forgiven him, as he could have asked that favor of me. Poor gentleman, he is now become a notable monument of an unprosperous disloyalty, teaching the world, that by so sad and unfortunate a spectacle, that the rude carriage of a subject carries always its own vengeance, as an unseparable shadow with it; and those often prove the most fatal and implacable executioners of it, who were the first employers in the service. Less than this could

not be afforded to this most notable passage of the times, whose ill beginning with this man brought him to this ill and unfortunate end."

Sir John Hotham married five wives; and his eldest son being beheaded the day before himself, he was succeeded by his grandson, the second baronet; and the title remains with his descendants to the present time.



CAPTAIN THOMAS CORAM.

THIS gentleman was born in the year 1668: he spent the early part of his life in the station of master of a trading vessel. Afterwards, by his residing in the eastern part of London, he frequently saw young children exposed in the streets. It was by contemplating the miseries of these little sufferers, that he formed the idea of establishing the Foundling Hospital, for the reception of *poor* foundlings; and, after a perseverance of seventeen years, he had the happiness to see the institution completely established: and, by his sole application, he obtained for it a royal charter. In doing this great and good work, he expended the whole of the property he had accumulated by his industry, and, in fact, so reduced himself, that a subscription was set on foot by the ladies for his support: to the honor of the females of that time be it spoken, that the subscription raised was completely adequate to meet the wants of this good man, and was the



CAPT. CORAM.



means of making his latter days glide on comfortably.

The whole of Mr. Coram's life was one series of great and good actions : he was highly instrumental in promoting the trade of America, by procuring a bounty upon naval stores imported from our colonies. He was also rendered conspicuous in setting on foot the colonies of Georgia and Nova Scotia : and made some progress in establishing schools in America, for the education of Indian girls, in order to unite more closely the interests of the North Americans and the English.

He died, Friday, February 29th, 1751, aged 83 : and was buried, agreeable to his own desire, in a vault under the Foundling Hospital.



EUGENE ARAM,

THE MURDERER.

EUGENE ARAM was born in Yorkshire; his family was once very respectable; one of his ancestors being High Sheriff of York, in the time of Edward the Third; but they became gradually reduced, and the father of Aram was in very low circumstances; the son, however, received the first rudiments of education at Rippon, where he learnt writing and arithmetic; and was afterwards sent to London, where he obtained employment as a clerk to a merchant: after a short time, he became ill, and it was deemed necessary, for the recovery of his health, that he should return to his native place.

He found himself obligated to engage in some concern for his livelihood; and was employed as teacher to a boarding school: being unacquainted with the classics, he applied himself, with dili-



EUGENE ARAM.

gence and industry, to the Greek and Latin languages, and, possessing an excellent memory, he soon made himself complete master of both.

In 1734, he became steward to a Mr. Norton, of Knaresborough; and here having many vacant hours, he made considerable advances in the Hebrew language. About this time he married; but we believe this transaction did not greatly augment his happiness.

Shortly after, he laid the plan for the perpetration of a crime of the most wicked and diabolical nature, the particulars of which are as follow:—

Daniel Clarke, a shoemaker, at Knaresborough, a few days after his marriage, circulated a report that his wife was entitled to a considerable fortune, which he expected soon to receive. Hereupon Aram, and Richard Houseman, persuaded Clarke to make an ostentatious shew of his own riches, to induce his wife's relations to give him that fortune of which he had boasted.

Clarke was easily induced to comply with a

hint so agreeable to his own desires ; on which, he borrowed, and obtained on credit, a large quantity of silver plate, &c. He told the persons of whom he purchased, that a merchant in London had sent him an order to buy such plate for exportation ; and no doubt was entertained of his credit, till his sudden disappearance in February, 1745, when it was imagined that he had gone abroad, or at least to London, to dispose of his ill-acquired property.

When Clarke was possessed of these goods, Aram and Houseman determined to murder him, in order to share his booty ; and, on the night of the 18th of February, 1745, they persuaded Clarke to walk with them in the fields, for the purpose of consulting with them on the proper method to dispose of the effects.

On this plan they walked into a field, at a small distance from the town, well known by the name of St. Robert's Cave. When they came into the field, Aram and Clarke went over a hedge towards the cave, and when they got within six or seven yards of it, Houseman (by the light of the moon) saw Aram strike Clarke

several times, and, at length, beheld him fall, but never saw him afterwards. This was the state of the affair, if Houseman's testimony on the trial might be credited.

The murderers immediately repaired to Clarke's house, and shared his ill-gotten treasure. In the mean time, Aram carried his part to London, and sold it to a Jew : he then engaged himself as an usher at an academy in Piccadilly ; where, at intervals of his duty, he made himself master of the French language, and acquired some knowledge of the Arabic and other eastern languages.

After this, he was usher at other schools in different parts of the kingdom ; but, as he did not correspond with his friends in Yorkshire, it was presumed that he was dead : but, in the year 1758, as a man was digging for lime-stones near St. Robert's Cave, he found the bones of a human body ; and a conjecture hereupon arose that they were the remains of the body of Clarke, who, it was presumed, might have been murdered.

Houseman having been seen in the company of Clarke a short time before his disappearance, was apprehended on suspicion ; and, on his examination, giving but too evident signs of his guilt, he was committed to York Castle ; and the bones of the deceased being shewn him, he denied that they were those of Clarke, but directed to the precise spot where they were deposited, and where they were accordingly found. The skull, being fractured, was preserved, to be produced in evidence on the trial.

Soon after Houseman was committed to the castle of York, it was discovered that Aram resided at Lynn, in Norfolk : on which, a warrant was granted for taking him into custody, and, being apprehended while instructing some young gentlemen at a school, he was conveyed to York, and likewise committed to the castle.

At the Lent assizes following, the prosecutors were not ready with their evidence ; on which he was remanded till the Summer assizes, when he was brought to his trial.

When Houseman had given his evidence re-

specting this extraordinary affair, and all such collateral testimony had been given as could be adduced on such an occasion, Aram was called on for his defence: but having foreseen that the perturbation of his spirits would incapacitate him to make such defence without previous preparation, he had written the following, which, by permission, he read in court:

“MY LORD,

“I know not whether it is of right, or through some indulgence of your lordship, that I am allowed the liberty at this bar, and at this time, to attempt a defence, incapable and uninstructed as I am to speak. Since, while I see so many eyes upon me, so numerous and awful a concourse, fixed with attention, and filled with I know not what expectancy, I labour not with guilt, my lord, but with perplexity. For having never seen a court but this; being wholly unacquainted with law, the customs of the bar, and all judiciary proceedings, I fear I shall be so little capable of speaking with propriety in this place, that it exceeds my hope if I shall be able to speak at all.

“I have heard, my lord, the indictment read; wherein I find myself charged with the highest crime, with an enormity I am altogether incapable of, a fact, to the commission of which there goes far more insensibility of heart, more profligacy of morals, than ever

fell to my lot. And nothing possibly could have admitted a presumption of this nature, but a depravity not inferior to that imputed to me. However, as I stand indicted at your lordship's bar, and have heard what is called evidence, adduced in support of such a charge, I very humbly solicit your lordship's patience, and beg the hearing of this respectable audience, while I, single and unskilful, destitute of friends, and unassisted by counsel, say something, perhaps like argument, in my defence. I shall consume but little of your lordship's time ; what I have to say will be short, and this briefly, probably, will be the best part of it ; however, it is offered with all possible regard, and the greatest submission, to your lordship's consideration, and that of this honorable court.

"First, my lord, the whole tenor of my conduct in life contradicts every particular of this indictment. Yet had I never said this, did not my present circumstances extort it from me, and seek to make necessary. Permit me here, my lord, to call upon malignity itself, so long and cruelly busied in this prosecution, to charge upon me any immorality, of which prejudice was not the author. No, my lord, I concerted no schemes of fraud ; projected no violence ; injured no man's person or property ; my days were honestly laborious, my nights intensely studious. And I humbly conceive my notice of this, especially at this time, will not be thought impertinent, or unseasonable ; but, at least, deserving some attention ; because, my lord,

that any person, after a temperate use of life, a series of thinking and acting regularly, and without one single deviation from sobriety, should plunge into the very depth of profligacy, precipitately, and at once, is altogether improbable, and unprecedented, and absolutely inconsistent with the course of things. Mankind is never corrupted at once; villany is always progressive, and declines from right, step after step, till every regard of probity is lost, and every sense of all moral obligation totally perishes.

“Again, my lord, a suspicion of this kind, which nothing but malevolence could entertain, and ignorance propagate, is violently opposed by my very situation at that time, with respect to health; for, but a little space before, I had been confined to my bed, and suffered under a very long and severe disorder, and was not able, for half-a-year together, so much as to walk. The distemper left me, indeed, yet slowly, and in part; but so macerated, so enfeebled, that I was reduced to crutches; and so far from being well about the time I am charged with this fact, that I never, to this day, perfectly recovered. Could then a person in this condition take any thing into his head so unlikely, so extravagant? I past the vigor of my age, feeble and valetudinary, with no inducement to engage, no ability to accomplish, no weapon wherewith to perpetrate such a fact; without interest, without power, without motive, without means.

“Besides, it must needs occur to every one, that

an action of this atrocious nature is never heard of but when its springs are laid open, it appears that it was to support some indolence, or supply some luxury; to satisfy some avarice, or oblige some malice; to prevent some real, or some imaginary want: yet I lay not under the influence of any one of these. Surely, my lord, I may, nonsistent with both truth and modesty, affirm thus much; and none who have any veracity, and knew me, will ever question this.

"In the second place, the disappearance of Clarke is suggested as an argument of his being dead; but the uncertainty of such an inference from that, and the fallability of all conclusions of such a sort, from such a circumstance, are too obvious, and too notorious to require instances; yet, superseding many, permit me to procure a very recent one, and that afforded by this castle.

"In June, 1757, William Thompson, for all the vigilance of this place, in open day-light, and double-ironed, made his escape; and, notwithstanding an immediate enquiry set on foot, the strictest search, and all advertisement, was never seen or heard of since. If then Thompson got off unseen, through all these difficulties, how very easy was it for Clarke, when none of them opposed him? but what would be thought of a prosecution commenced against any one seen last with Thompson.

"Permit me, my lord, to observe a little upon the bones which have been discovered. It is said, which

perhaps is saying very far, that these are the skeleton of a man. It is possible, indeed, it may; but is there any certain known criterion, which incontestibly distinguishes the sex in human bones? Let it be considered, my lord, whether the ascertaining of this point ought not to precede any attempt to identify them.

"The place of their depositum too claims much more attention than is commonly bestowed upon it: for, of all places in the world, none could have mentioned any one wherein there was greater certainty of finding human bones than an hermitage, except he should point out a church-yard; hermitages, in time past, being not only places of religious retirement, but of burial too. And it has scarce, or never been heard of, but that every cell now known contains or contained these relicts of humanity; some mutilated and some entire. I do not inform, but give me leave to remind your lordship, that here sat solitary sanctity, and here the hermit, or the anchoress, hoped that repose for their bones, when dead, they here enjoyed when living.

"All the while, my lord, I am sensible that this is known to your lordship, and many in this court, better than to me. But it seems necessary to my case that others, who have not at all, perhaps, adverted to things of this nature, and may have concern in my trial, should be made acquainted with it. Suffer me then, my lord, to produce a few of many evi-

dences, that these cells were used as repositories of the dead, and to enumerate a few in which human bones have been found, as it happened in this in question; lest, to some, that accident might seem extraordinary, and, consequently, occasion prejudice.

"1. The bones, as was supposed, of the Saxon St. Dubricius, were discovered buried in his cell at Guy's Cliff, near Warwick, as appears from the authority of Sir William Dugdale.

"2. The bones thought to be those of the anchoress Rosia, were but lately discovered in a cell at Royston, entire, fair, and undecayed, though they must have lain interred for several centuries, as is proved by Dr. Stukely.

"3. But my own country, nay, almost this neighbourhood, supplies another instance, for in January, 1747, were found, by Mr. Stovin, accompanied by a reverend gentleman, the bones in part of some recluse, in the cell at Lindholm, near Hatfield. They were believed to be those of William of Lindholm, a hermit, who had long made this cave his habitation.

"4. In February, 1744, part of Woburn Abbey being pulled down, a large portion of a corpse appeared, even with the flesh on, and which bore cutting with a knife; though it is certain this had lain above two hundred years, and how much longer is doubtful; for this abbey was founded in 1146, and dissolved in 1538 or 9.

"What would have been said, what believed, if this had been an accident to the bones in question.

"Farther, my lord, it is not yet out of living memory, that a little distance from Knaresborough, in a field, part of the manor of the worthy and patriot baronet who does that borough the honor to represent it in parliament, were found, in digging for gravel, not one human skeleton only, but five or six deposited side by side, with each an urn placed at its head, as your lordship knows was usual in ancient interments.

"About the same time, and in another field, almost close to this borough, was discovered also in searching for gravel, another human skeleton; but the piety of the same worthy gentleman ordered both pits to be filled up again, commendably unwilling to disturb the dead.

"Is the invention of these bones forgotten, then, or industriously concealed, that the discovery of those in question may appear the more singular and extraordinary; whereas, in fact, there is nothing extraordinary in it. My lord, almost every place conceals some remains. In fields, in hills, in highway sides, in commons, lie frequented and unsuspected bones. And our present allotments for rest for the departed is but of some centuries.

"Another particular seems not to claim a little of your lordship's notice, and that of the gentlemen of the jury; which is, that, perhaps, no example occurs of more than one skeleton being found in one cell: and in the cell in question was found but one; agreeable,

in this, to the peculiarity of ever other known cell in Britain. Not the invention of one skeleton, but of two, would have appeared suspicious and uncommon.

“ But it seems another skeleton has been discovered by some labourer, which was full as confidently averred to be Clarke’s as this. My lord, must some of the living, if it promotes some interest, be made answerable for all the bones earth has concealed, and chance exposed ? and might not a place where bones lay be mentioned by a person by chance, as well as found by a labourer by chance ? or is it more criminal, accidentally, to name where bones lie, than accidentally to find where they lie ?

“ Here, too, is a human skull produced, which is fractured ; but was this the cause, or was it the consequence of death ? was it owing to violence, or was it the effect of natural decay ? if it was violence, was that violence before or after death ? My lord, in May, 1732, the remains of William, lord archbishop of this province, were taken up, by permission, in this cathedral, and the bones of the skull were found broken ; yet certainly he died by no violence offered to him alive, that could occasion that fracture there.

“ Let it be considered, my lord, that, upon the dissolution of religious houses, and the commencement of the reformation, the ravages of those times affected both the living and the dead. In search after imaginary treasures, coffins were broken up, graves and

vaults dug open, monuments ransacked, and shrines demolished ; and it ceased about the beginning of the reign of Queen Elizabeth. I entreat your lordship, suffer not the violences, the depredations, and the iniquities of those times, to be imputed to this.

“ Moreover, what gentleman here is ignorant that Knarborough had a castle ; which, though now a ruin, was once considerable, both for its strength and garrison ? All knew it was vigorously besieged by the arms of the parliament : at which siege, in sallies, conflicts, flights, pursuits, many fell in all the places round it, and where they fell were buried, for every place, my lord, is a burial place in war ; and many, questionless, of these, rest yet unknown, whose bones futurity shall discover.

“ I hope, with all possible submission, that what has been said will not be thought impertinent to this indictment ; and that it will be far from the wisdom, the learning, and the integrity of this place, to impute to the living what zeal in its fury may have done ; what nature may have taken off, and piety interred ; or what war alone may have destroyed, alone deposited.

“ As to the circumstances that have been raked together, I have nothing to observe, but that all circumstances, whatever, are precarious, and have been too frequently found lamentably fallible ; even the strongest have failed. They may rise to the utmost degree of probability, yet they are but probability

still. Why need I name to your lordship the two Harrisons, recorded by Dr. Howel, who both suffered upon circumstances, because of the sudden disappearance of their lodger, who was in credit, had contracted debts, borrowed money, and went off unseen, but who returned a great many years after their execution? Why name the intricate affair of Jaques du Moulin, under King Charles II. related by a gentleman who was counsel for the crown? and why the unhappy Coleman, who suffered innocent, though convicted upon positive evidence, and whose children perished for want, because the world uncharitably believed the father guilty? Why mention the perjury of Smith, incautiously admitted king's evidence; who, to screen himself, equally accused Faircloth and Loveday of the murder of Dun; the first of whom, in 1749, was executed at Winchester: and Loveday was about to suffer at Reading, had not Smith been accused of perjury, to the satisfaction of the court, by the surgeon of Gosport hospital?

"Now, my lord, having endeavoured to shew that the whole of this process is altogether repugnant to every part of my life; that it is inconsistent with my condition of health about that time; that no rational inference can be drawn, that a person is dead who suddenly disappears; that hermitages were the constant repositories of the bones of the recluse; that the revolutions in religion, or the fortune of war, has mangled, or buried the dead; the conclusion

remains, perhaps, no less reasonably than impatiently wished for. I, at last, after a year's confinement, equal to either fortune, put myself upon the candor, the justice, and the humanity of your lordship, and upon yours, my countrymen, gentlemen of the jury."

The judge summed up the evidence, remarking, at the same time, on the great erudition and ingenuity displayed in the prisoner's defence. The jury retired, and brought in a verdict of guilty—*death*.

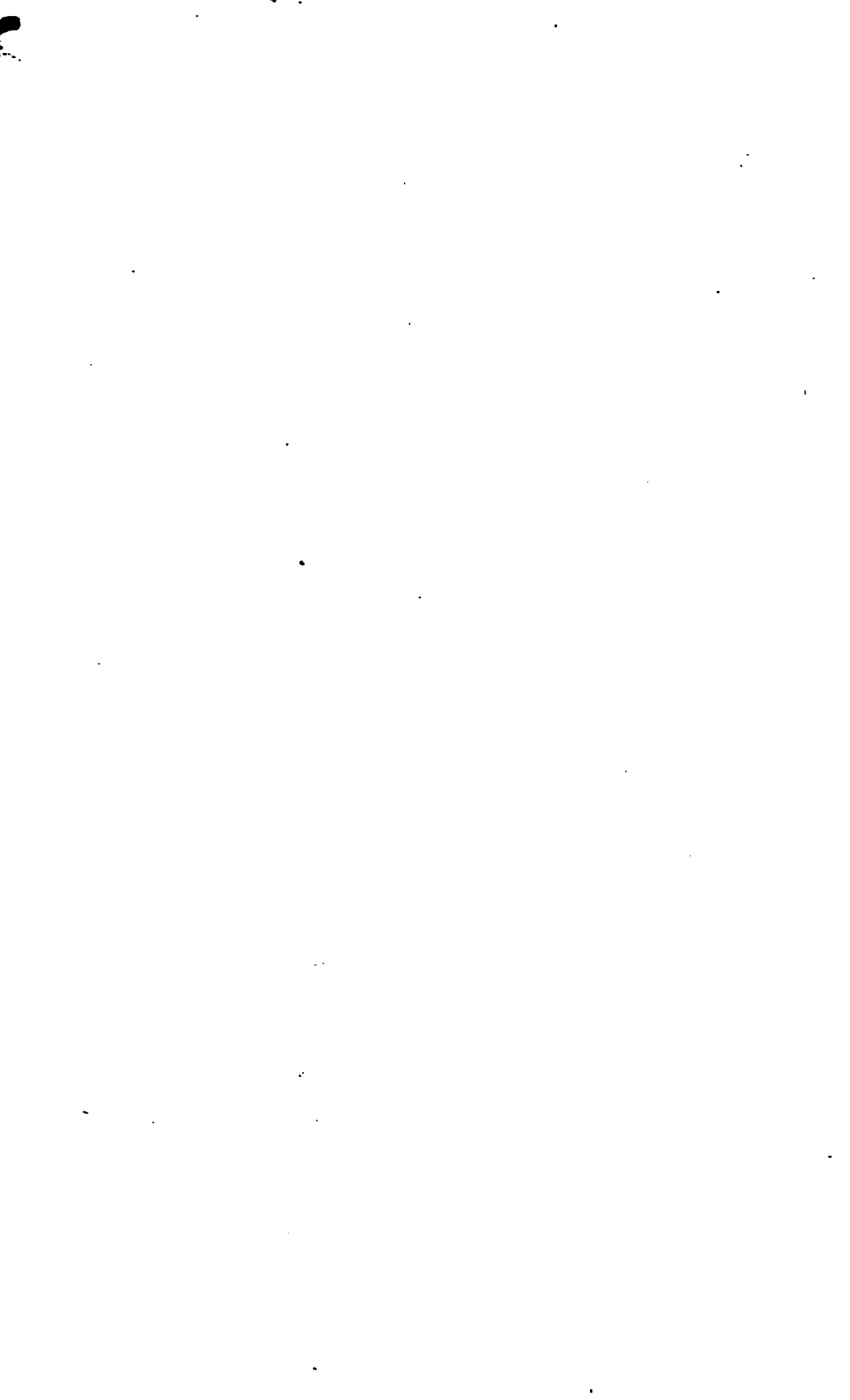
When the morning appointed for his execution arrived, the keeper went to take him out of his cell, when he was surprised to find him almost expiring, through loss of blood, having cut his left arm above the elbow, and near the wrist, with a razor, but he missed the artery. A surgeon being sent for, soon stopped the bleeding, and when he was taken to the place of execution he was perfectly sensible, though so very weak as to be unable to join in devotion with the clergyman who attended him.

He was executed near York, on the 6th of August, 1759, and afterwards hung in chains on Knaresborough forest.

Such was the end of Eugene Aram : a man of consummate abilities, and wonderful erudition : the power of whose mind might have rendered him acceptable to the highest company, had not the foul crime of murder made him only an object of pity to the lowest.

In a letter to a friend he acknowledged his guilt.







TIDDY DOLL.

TIDDY DOLL,

THE CELEBRATED VENDER OF GINGERBREAD.

—
“ Let none despise the merry Cries of famous London city.”
—

HOGARTH, in his inimitable production of Southwark Fair, has introduced the above eccentric character in one corner of his picture, dressed exactly *en suite* with our representation. He lived in the reign of George II. and frequented all the fairs near London. His real name we have not been able to learn; but the reason of his being called Tiddy Doll, was owing to the song he used to chaunt to his customers, being hardly any thing else but *Tiddy-doll-lol-lol*. He wore a high cock'd hat and feather, with a broad scalloped gold lace on it: this *original* had many *copyists*.

He was of a very superior order of itinerant venders; of a most respectable appearance;

possessing a lively vein of wit, and a genteel demeanour; the quantity of gingerbread he used to sell was incredible; by which he gained a very genteel livelihood.

In further illustration of the remarkable characters which London daily exhibits, we subjoin the following lines :—

ON THE CRIES OF LONDON.

' We daily cryes about the streets may hear,
According to the season of the year;
Some Welfleet oysters call, others do cry
Fine Shelsea cockles, or white musoles buy;
Great mackrel, five a groat some cry about,
Dainty fresh salmon, does another shout;
Buy my fine dish of dainty eels, cryes one,
Some soles and flounders in another tone;
Butter and eggs some cry, some Hampshire honey,
Others do call for brass, or broken money.
Have ye any old suits, or coats, or hats,
Another says come buy my dainty sprats,
Box, or horn combes of ivory, or sissers,
Tobacco-boxes, knives, razors, or twissers:
Who buys my bak'd oxo-cheek, here in my pot,
Plump, fresh and fat, well stew'd, and piping hot,
Dry'd lin for aprons, vinegar some cryes,
Some hot bak'd wardens, others pudding pyes:

Buy a jack-line or an hair line, cryes some,
New books, new books, then doth another come,
French beans and parsley, some cry, if ye mind;
And others, have ye any knives to grind;
Some ropes of onions, cry about the town,
Some pepins, and pearmaines up street and down,
Hot codlins, hot, the best that e'er you see
Who buys these dainty hot codlins of me;
Turnips and Sandwich carrots, one man calls,
Green hastings in my cart, another hawls.
Come buy a steel or a tinder-box, cryes some;
Old boots or shoes, says one, come buy my broom.
Maids ha'ye any kitchen stuff, I pray,
Buy long thread laces does another say;
New almanacks some cry, at th' times o' the year,
Then others singing ballads you may hear;
Some carry painted-clothes, on little poles,
By which it's known that such men do catch moles,
Others in clothea, well painted rats have made,
Which notifies rat-catching is their trade:
Have ye any work for a cooper here,
Old brass to mend, then, tinkles one in th' rear;
Some nettle cheeses cry, and some new milk,
Others satin, and velvet, or old silk.
Then ends of gold or silver, cryes a lass,
Another curds and cream, as she does pass,
With traps for rats and mice, do some appear,
Two hundred a penny, card matches here;
Ripe cherries, ripe, come buy my early cherries.
Who buys my currants and large ripe gooseberries,

A rubbing brush, a bottle brush, or grater,
Fine sparrow-grass, then cries another creature ;
Here's dainty cowcubbers, who buys to pickle,
Another then with colly-flowers does tickle.
Ripe rass-berries about, does some then sing,
Fine young straw-berries does another bring ;
Fresh nettle tops, or elder-buds, come buy,
Then water-creesses and brook-lime, they cry.
Any old iron here to sell, cries one,
And some, maids ha'ye any marrow-bone ;
Ripe Muske mellons, or apricots, some cry,
Fine civil oranges or lemons buy,
Old chairs to mend, then cries a ragged fellow,
Come buy a door mat does another bellow ;
Buy a cock or a gelding does one come,
Come buy my dainty singing birds says some.
Some, dainty fine holly and ivy sayes,
Then curious fine rosemary and bayes.
Some pens and ink would sell to all they meet,
And others small-coal cry about the street ;
Pity the poor prisoners, some with baskets go,
And others cry come see my rara show :
Anon, a poor wretch comes crying behind,
With dog and bell, pray pity the poor blind ;
Who buys these figs, rasins, new of mine,
Come buy my bowl of wheat, fine oatcakes, fine.
Hot mutton pyes, cries one along the street,
Who buys my mutton pyes, fresh, hot, and sweet ;
Buy marking stone one cries, with's smutty face,
Another says come buy my fine bone lace ;

Buy a cloth or a thrum mop, you maids and lasses,
Another cries, who buyes my drinking glasses.
A lattice for a window, who will buy,
Great faggots, five for sixpence, does some cry ;
Have ye any old glass for to renew,
Some cry bellows to mend, or bowels to sew ;
Some silk or ferrit ribben for shoe-strings,
With London pins, and tape, and other things.
Have ye any corns upon your feet or toes,
Buy fox-tail or whiske, another goes ;
Some walk about and old silk stockings cry,
Some ask if socks, or quilted caps you'll buy ;
And thus they trot about and bawl each day,
For th' love they bear Lady Pecunia,
For her they'll sit up late, and early rise,
She does appear so glorious in their eyes :
Think all pains well bestow'd, nothing too much,
Their zealous dotage to this idol's such,
Money's the only she, all men admire,
Both poor and rich this lady do desire ;
And those that her do want, they are forlorn,
If she's not there, they're every fellow's scorn ;
We may conclude, when we've said all we can,
'Tis money at all times does make a man."

The eccentricity of the cries of London attracted the notice of an eminent painter, of the name of Marcellus Laroon, who made nearly an hundred original sketches of them, which were

engraved by Tempesta. Each character is an exact portrait. They may be obtained at a small cost, and form a very interesting and true collection of original Oddities.







THOMAS LAUGHER.

THOMAS LAUGHER,

AGED 115.

THIS person is supposed to be the oldest man now living (1815): he was baptized the 6th of January, 1700, at Markly, Worcestershire; his father died at the age of 97, his mother at 108, and his son at 80.

His recollection of past events is very good; he remembers Queen Anne going to Parliament, in the year 1705, on horseback, seated on a pillion, behind the Lord Chancellor.

He was formerly a wholesale wine and brandy merchant, in Tower-street, and through the bankruptcy of Neele, Fordyce and James, Bartholomew-lane, he lost the sum of 198,000*l.*, which great loss had such an effect upon him, that it struck him blind and speechless, and caused a quantity of skin to come off his body.

He was educated at Christ-church college, Oxford, whence he went a tour on the continent of Europe.

He never drank strong beer, small beer, nor spirits. His principal subsistence was coffee, tea, bread and spring water. He never eat any animal food, nor cheese, nor butter. He recollects the quartern loaf 2½d. meat 1d. per lb. and butter at 2½d. per lb.

His grandmother died at the age of 141 years; and she also lived on dry bread and pump water:—though, by the bye, we do not wish to recommend this mode of living to all our readers.

This astonishing man is very hearty, and seems likely to live many years more; and can walk remarkably well, considering his age. He rises at four o'clock every morning, and takes a long walk before breakfast, and eats and drinks sparingly.





Ben Israel.

MANASSEH BEN ISRAEL.

IN presenting to the Reader some particulars relative to Manasseh Ben Israel, it may not be improper to make a few remarks relative to the state of the Jews before his time. There is something peculiarly surprising in their history, and more especially when we consider the attempts which have been made, in different ages, to exterminate the whole race, yet still they remain a separate and distinct people, and are scattered over the whole face of the earth. Jerusalem, it is well-known, was long the chief seat of the Jews, and contained upwards of 1,300,000 inhabitants.* During the reign of Vespasian, the Roman emperor, this city, though surrounded by walls, which were considered impregnable, was besieged with about 60,000 men. The result was

* Between three and four hundred thousand more than the population of London.

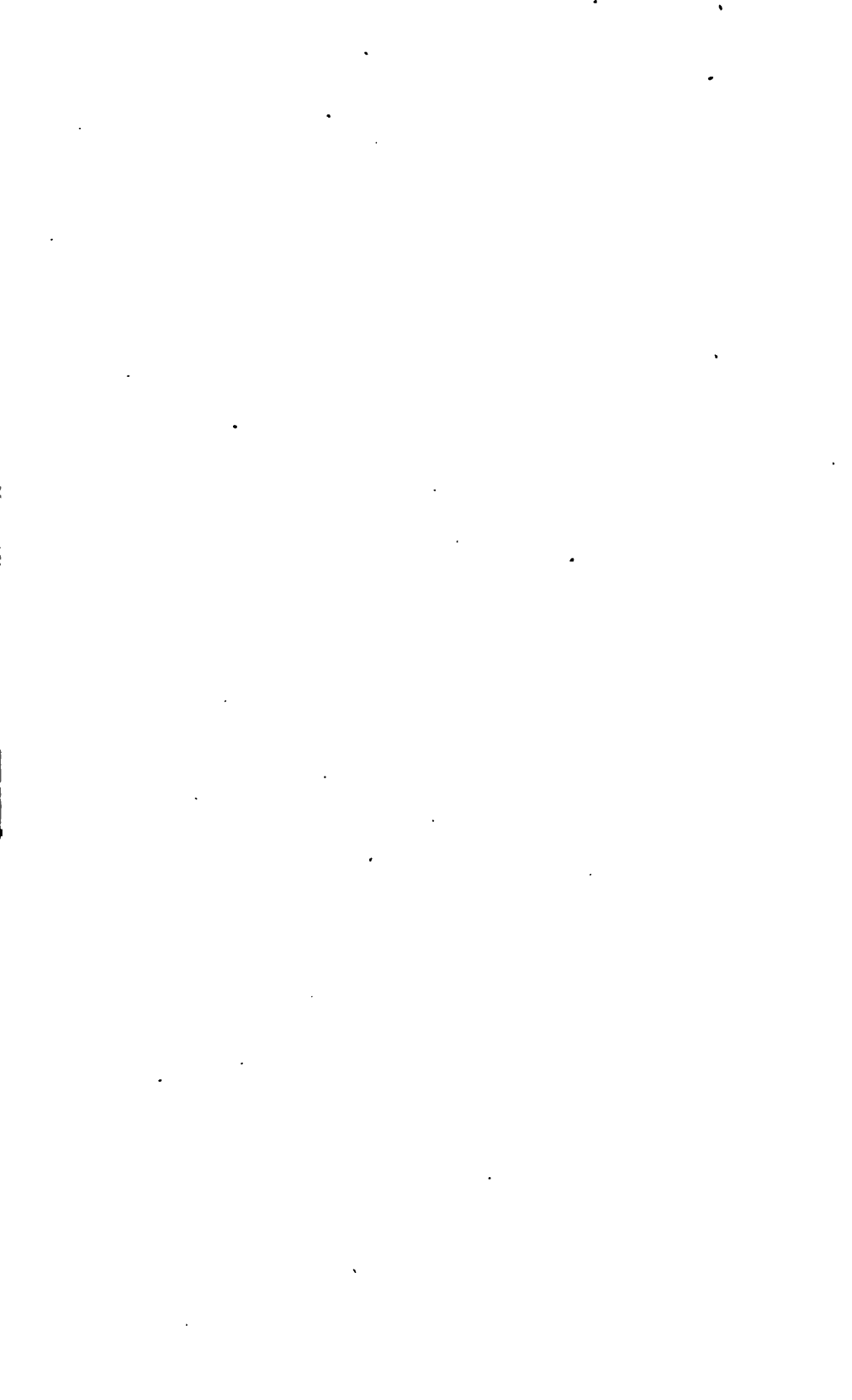
shocking in the extreme; for such was the want of public and mutual confidence, that, even though the enemy was at the gates, none would offer grain to open sale, and, consequently, the most violent measures, even tortures, were resorted to, to obtain the daily supply. To add to their wretchedness, the inhabitants were divided amongst themselves into three desperate factions, and scarcely a day closed without a conflict in the streets, in which hundreds were slain. And, (independent of the numbers that were killed in sallies) whenever hunger, or a desire to escape from the city induced them to flee in bodies, they were almost always caught, and, in mockery of their own national mode of punishment, crucified by the Roman soldiers, to the number, sometimes, of 500 a-day; insomuch, that room was wanting for crosses, and crosses for bodies: nay, upon a rumour being spread that they swallowed their gold, 2,000 individuals were ripped up alive in one night, in search of it. Meantime, discord raged amongst themselves with unabated fury, and famine impelled them to search the common sewers, and even the dunghills, for food; nay, (horrible to relate!) a woman of quality killed her sucking infant, and prepared it for a meal!

When Titus, on becoming master of the city, surveyed it, he expressed himself, though a Heathen, in these words,—“ We have certainly had God for our helper in this war; it is God who has ejected the Jews out of their fortifications, for what could the hands of men do towards throwing down such stupendous bulwarks ?” In fine, the number taken prisoners amounted to 97,000, who were sold by Titus, and scattered separate and remote, according to the different residences of the purchasers !

To exhibit still further the various privations and difficulties with which this people have had to encounter, it is only necessary to refer to circumstances which have taken place in our own country.—The Jews were expelled from England at the coronation of Richard I. but returning again without leave, for some alleged misdemeanor, were again banished with a sentence “ for ever,” 18th of Edward I. A. D. 1290.—They remained out of the kingdom, visiting it but seldom and secretly, until the spirit of traffic and revolution, in the beginning of Cromwell’s time, invited them here, when they offered large sums of money to the Protector, with a view to

obtain favor with him. Ben Israel, with some of the principal Jews concerned in the scheme, even offered Oliver the title of Messiah, as forerunner of the peaceable Messiah, whom they yet expected. They were so earnest in this scheme, that they went into Huntingdonshire to enquire after the Protector's genealogy, but he, not liking their schemes, and being employed at the same time with an Asiatic deputation on the same account, called a council, in which their proposals were completely negatived. They afterwards offered to purchase all the Hebrew books and manuscripts of the Universities, and offered themselves as spies, but it seems the Protector had too ill an opinion of them; and, after many prolonged altercations, dismissed them without any thing being determined, not so much as the grant of a piece of burial-ground.

Manasseh Ben Israel also offered to purchase St. Paul's Church, to make a synagogue of: but this request, bad as the Protector wanted money, he indignantly refused.





MASSANIELLO.

TOMASO ANELLO,

ALIAS

MASANIELLO,

THE FISHERMAN OF NAPLES.

—
“ A low-born man, of parentage obscure.”

—————“ ordained,
And stamp’d a hero, by the sov’reign hand of nature !”

DOUGLAS.

—
Of all the strange events and transactions that have happened in different ages of the world, there are none more extraordinary and surprising than the rise and fall of Masaniello.

Philip IV. of Spain, sensible of the affection of the Neapolitans, resolved to present them with a new donation : but all commodities being already taxed, it was difficult to raise the money ;

so that they were obliged to lay a gabel (or tax) upon all sorts of fruits that were brought to market: whereby, the common sort of people were deprived of their usual nourishment and support, and reduced to the lowest misery and distress. This gabel was collected for several months; at last it grew insupportable, so that many poor wretches, having sold all their household stuff, were obliged to prostitute their daughters to the ministers of the gabels, to gain a short respite: it was to annihilate this dreadful tax, that Masaniello started singly, against all the power and influence of Naples, and gained his point, by restoring to the Neapolitans their ancient charter.

Mindon describes him in these words: "A young fellow, about twenty-four years old, happened to live in a corner of a great market-place of Naples, of a sprightly active disposition, pleasant and humorous, of a confident, bold address, and of a middle stature; black-eyed, sharp and piercing, his body rather lean than fat, with short cropped hair, and a mariner's cap on his head: he wore long linen slops or drawers, a blue waistcoat, and went bare-foot; but he had

a daring, enterprizing countenance, and a good share of stern resolution and rough courage. He got his living by angling for small fish, with a cane, hook and line, and sometimes he bought fish in the market, and retailed them. His name was Tomaso Anello, of Amalphi, but vulgarly, and by contraction, called Masaniello."

Masaniello's wife was taken by the officers for selling fruit in the streets, that had not paid the gabel; and he was obliged to sell all his goods to pay the fine of one hundred ducats; this struck so deep to the heart of Masaniello, that he determined to do away with so unjust a tax as the gabel; whereupon, on coming home, he found a great number of boys together; he made a speech to them, in which he inveighed bitterly against the cruelty of government; and soon made them of his party. He taught them to go about exclaiming against the unjustness of their taxes; and in a few days he had 5,000 of them under his command, all sturdy lads, to whom he gave lessons. On the next market-day, they seized all the fruit, and distributed it to the mob. This action alarmed the whole city, and all things were in great confusion.

Masaniello was now made commander by the people; whereupon he began to collect arms, and sent to a shop-keeper for some gunpowder, and on his refusal, he ordered his house to be burnt down, which was instantly done.

The vice-roy being now alarmed, sent a letter to Masaniello, which he answered, and enclosed his conditions of peace; and they not being complied with, he searched all the houses for arms, and seized several guns out of a ship.

At length, an interview took place between the vice-roy and Masaniello, when it was agreed that the tax should be taken off. At this meeting, Masaniello gave surprising proofs of the obedience of the people to him:—"Now," said he to the vice-roy, "see how my people obey me." The people had assembled round the vice-roy's house, all was tumult and confusion, Masaniello appeared at the balcony, and putting his finger to his mouth, the people were all silent and attentive. He then ordered them to repair home, which they did in the greatest order.

After this negociation, the people finding

themselves without a leader, called on Masaniello to be their conductor and generalissimo, which he accepted. They also appointed Genoino, a priest, to attend his person, as counsellor; and they added, as a companion, the celebrated Bandido Perrone. Masaniello, by his behaviour, won the affections of all the people.

On the Sunday following, the capitulations were signed and ratified, in the Cathedral Church; and, on the next day, Masaniello issued a proclamation, stating the office of generalissimo, which the people had conferred on him, had been confirmed by the vice-roy.

It was on a stage in the market-place where Masaniello gave public audiences, clothed in white, like a mariner: here he received all petitions, and gave sentences, both civil and criminal. A list of above sixty persons, who had farmed the taxes, and were reported to have enriched themselves with the blood of the people, and ought, consequently, to be made examples of, an order was issued that their houses and goods should be burnt, which was done accordingly, and with so much precision, that no one

was suffered to carry away the smallest article. Many for stealing trifling articles from the flames were hanged in the public market-place, by order of Masaniello.

He was so severe in his judgments, that he had a baker burnt in his own oven, for selling bread lighter than the assize. All his orders were faithfully obeyed; and affixed to the buildings, and subscribed, "*Tomaso Anello d'Amalphi*, Head and Captain-general of the faithful people of Naples."

But Masaniello, who had hitherto behaved with so much wisdom and kingly authority, became, all on a sudden, delirious; and it is generally supposed he had some intoxicating draught given him. In one of his mad fits, he made two great nobles kiss his feet in the Market-place, for not getting out of their carriage when he passed: at length, he grew so violently tyrannic, that the people petitioned the vice-roy to displace him; but no person was to be found who could take away the life of that man who was the sole cause of restoring their liberties.

Being at Possillippo, he did such extravagant things, that the people were obliged to secure him, and took him to his own house, where they confined him. From hence he made his escape from his guards, and got safe into the church of our Lady of Carmine; where he resigned himself up to the archbishop, who was there singing mass; saying, that he knew the people were tired of him, and that he was willing to die. Just when the archbishop was going to the altar, Masaniello got up into the pulpit, and taking hold of a crucifix, implored the people not to forsake him; and behaved in so inconsistent a manner, that he was forced out of it. Just at this moment, the men who were appointed by the vice-roy to kill him, entered the church, when Masaniello ran to them, saying, "Is it me you want, my people? Behold, here I am!" when the contents of four muskets were fired at him. He instantly dropped down, and had just time to say, "Ah! ungrateful traitors!" and then breathed his last. His head was cut off, placed on a pike, and carried through the streets by the murderers, singing Masaniello is dead! The people did not revenge this foul murder.

The love of a populace may be compared to a broken reed, whoever leans on it is sure of falling. They who once adored him, now saw him dragged through the kennels of the streets, and, at last, thrown into a ditch ! But the next day, some people went and fetched his body, washed it, and carried it on a bier to the cathedral church of Carmine. At the same time, a young man, called Donneruma, went with a company of men armed, and looked for his head in the Corn Ditch, and having found it, took it where his body was, in order to have them joined together. This being done, a meeting of the people was called, and it was resolved to bury Masaniello with great style, which was accordingly done, in all the pomp of a great military commander : an instance of popular inconsistency not to be equalled. In three days Masaniello was obeyed like a monarch, murdered like a villain, and revered like a saint !

Thus rose and fell Masaniello of Amalphi ! the dread of the Spaniards, the avenger of public oppressions, and the saviour of his desolate country. All antiquity cannot furnish us with

such another example as this; and posterity will hardly believe what height of power this ridiculous sovereign arrived to; who, trampling bare-foot on a throne, and wearing a mariner's cap instead of a diadem, in the space of four days raised an army of 150,000 men, and made himself master of one of the most populous cities in the world. His orders were without reply; his decrees without appeal; and the destiny of Naples might be said to depend upon a single motion of his hand!

It has been said that two capuchins foretold, when they saw Masaniello in his cradle, that that child should one day come to be the master of Naples, but that his government should be but of a short duration.

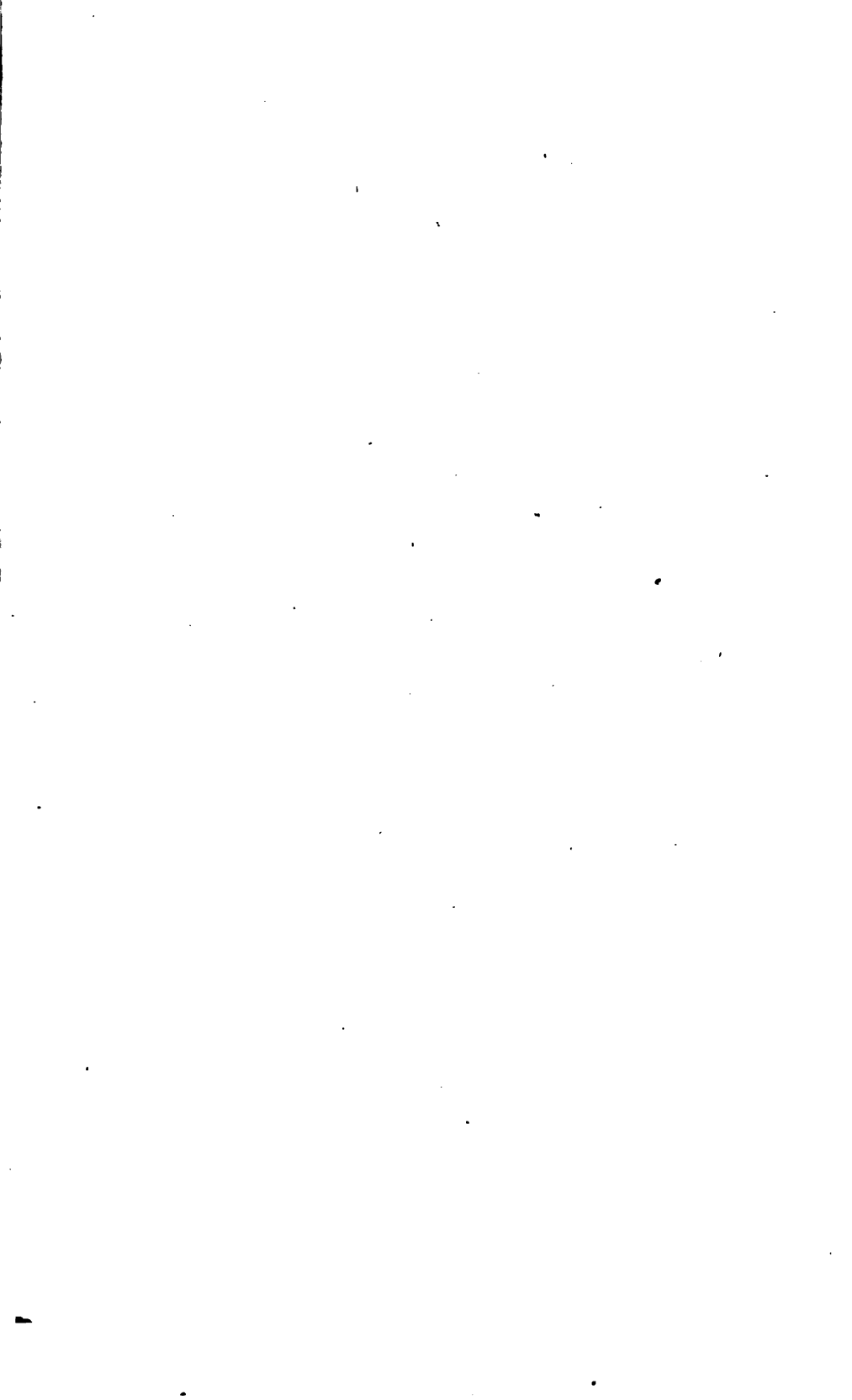
MATTHEW HOPKINS,

THE WITCH-FINDER.

MANNINGTREE, in Essex, was the birth-place of our hero, who was witch-finder for the associated counties. In the short space of one year he hanged no less than sixty reputed witches in the county of Essex. The victims of his wickedness were generally those who were old and ignorant. He founded his wisdom by their *marks*, such as moles, spots or warts, which so frequently grow large in old age, but which were then supposed to be teats to suckle imps. His general proof was by tying the thumbs and toes of suspected persons, about whose waist he fastened a cord, the ends of which were held on the banks of a river by two men, in whose power it was either to slacken or strain them. If they could *swim* under this experiment, it was a sure proof of guilt. It is said, that King James did recommend, if not invent, this cruel torture; ob-



HOPKINS. THE WITCH FINDER.



serving, "That as such persons had renounced their baptism by water, so the water refuses to receive them." Sometimes those persons who were accused of mal-practices were tied neck and heels together, tossed into a pond—if they floated, it was a sure sign of guilt, and were taken out and burnt;—but if they were innocent, they were *only* drowned.

At last the wretched Hopkins was doomed to undergo the experiment which he had so cruelly tried upon others: he was thrown into the water according to his own mode; but, unfortunately for himself, he swam: he was, therefore, taken out, and condemned and hung for a wizzard.

The celebrated Dr. Z. Grey, tells us, that nearly 4,000 persons suffered death for witchcraft, from the year 1640 to the restoration of Charles II.

For a further history of Hopkins and his associates, we refer our readers to Hutchinson's History of Witchcraft, page 61; where will be found a most singular and interesting account of them.

It is most probably to Hopkins, that Butler refers in *Hudibras*, part II. canto 3.

“ Has not the present parliament
A ledger to the devil sent,
Fully empowered to treat about
Finding revolted witches out ?
And has not he, within a year,
Hang’d threescore of ’em in one shire ?
Some only for not being drowned,
And some for setting above ground,
Whole days and nights upon their breeches,
And feeling pain, were hang’d for witches ;
And some for putting knavish tricks
Upon green geese and turkey chicks,
Or pigs that suddenly deceast
Of griefs unnat’ral as he guest,
Who after proved himself a witch
And made a rod for his own breech.”

The last instance of ducking people for witchcraft, we have on record, is that of John Osborne and his wife, at Marlston-moor, near Tring, in Hertfordshire ; during which operation Osborne’s wife was suffocated ; for which offence a poor misguided man, of the name of Thomas Colley, was executed, and afterwards hung in chains, at Gubblecutt, 24th August, 1751.

The following is a literal copy of the notice given to the public crier, preparatory to the ducking:

"This is to give notice, that on Monday next, a man and a woman will be publicly ducked at Tring, in this county, for their crimes."

Will the reader believe, that the parliament of James I. passed an act to make it felony for any man or woman to be guilty of witchcraft? but such was the case; thanks to the enlightened reigns of the house of Hanover, it has long since been repealed.

SIR JEFFREY DUNSTAN,

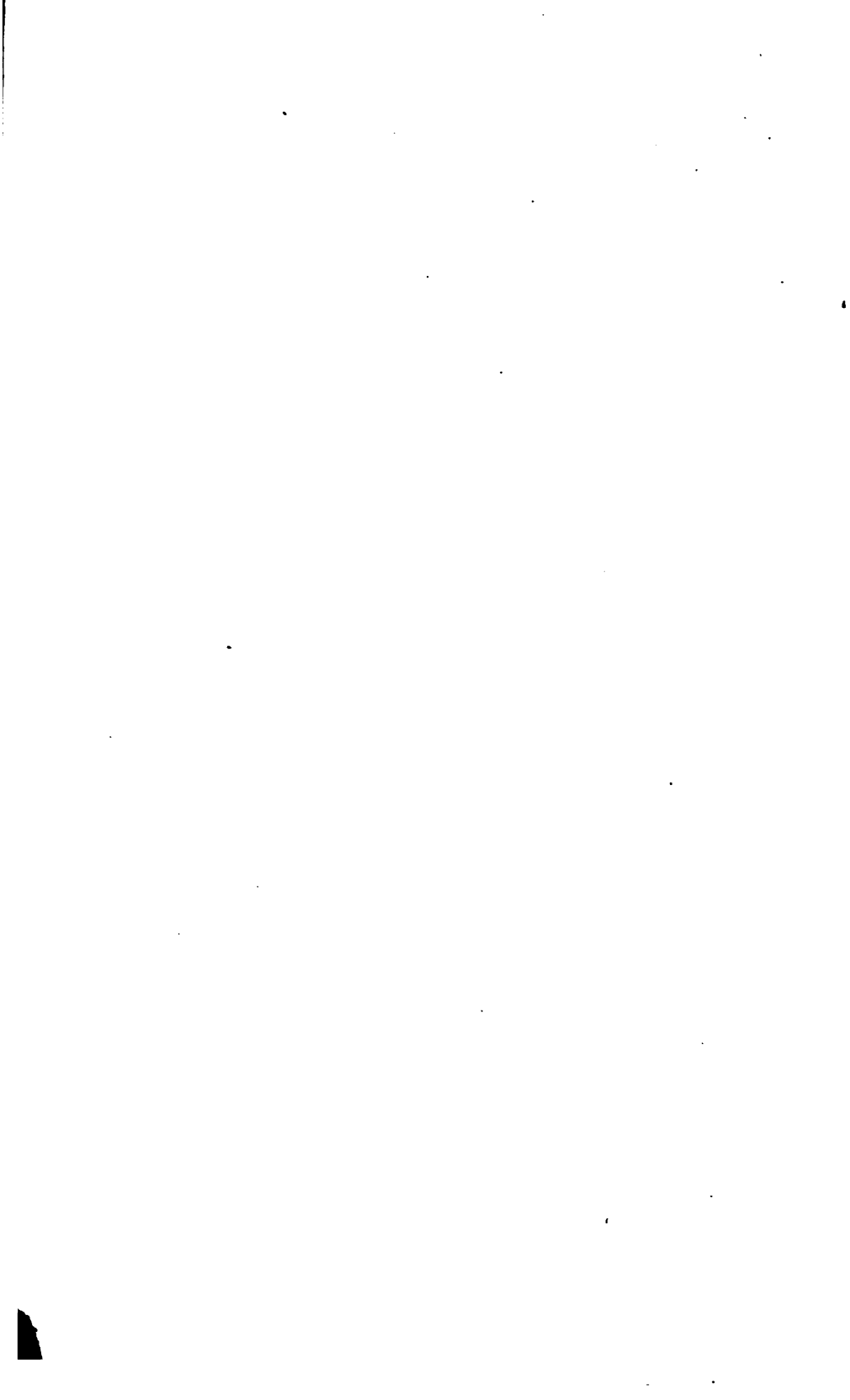
THE CELEBRATED MAYOR OF GARRET.

ACCORDING to report, this deformed work of nature was found, in the year 1759, wrapped up in a cloth, at the door of a church-warden of the parish of St. Dunstan in the East ; and, from the superiority of the mantle he had on, it is likely he was the child of some respectable person, who did not choose to own him, which is very probable, as his parentage was never discovered.

When *honor* and *fortune* smiled on Sir Jeffrey, he never troubled himself to search into the secrets of the Herald's office, for family arms ; but, in opposition to them, formed his own armorial bearings ; which were four wigs ; and his crest, a quart pot, emblematic of his pursuits of life ; for he could not resist, at times, the temptations of London ; and he seemed to agree with a late learned senator, that the publicans in Lon-



SIR JEFFREY DUNSTAN.



don seemed to shew their pots in the streets, as much as to say, "come and steal me!" Whether our hero ever heard that sound vibrate on his ears, we are not informed; but sure it is, he made rather too free with them; and for which offence he was, more than once, kept in durance vile; hence the meaning of his crest: old wigs being his favorite cry through the streets, it was his wish that they should fill each quarter of his arms.

Sir Jeffrey was reared in the work-house of the above parish till the age of twelve years, when he was apprenticed for the term of nine years to a green-grocer; which time he did not serve out, but ran away to Birmingham, where he worked in several factories; and the hard labour there contributed much to his peculiar deformity.

Our hero returned to London, in the year 1776, and soon after entered the holy bands of matrimony, with a fair nymph of the neighbourhood of St. Giles's, by whom he had two daughters, extremely fine women; Sir Jeffrey was remarkably dirty in person; and always

appeared with his shirt thrown open, thereby exposing his breast to public view. He had a most filthy and disgraceful habit, when he saw a number of girls around him, of spitting in their faces; saying, "There, go about your business."

The Court Calender does not inform us when Mr. Dunstan received the honor of knighthood; but we believe it was on the death of Sir John Harper; which was about the time of the celebrated contest for Westminster, between Hood, Fox, and Wray; for, in the spring following, he was unanimously elected Mayor of Garret; which seat he kept till his death; he neither bought nor sold the votes of his constituents, being perfectly *pure in politics*—and *virtuous* in his *official* capacity!

The cavalcade, on his first election, was grand in the extreme. He was drawn in a phæton and six horses, attended by an admiring multitude. Sir Jeffrey, with his lady and two daughters, were seated in the phæton, decorated in all the gaudy splendour of theatrical magnificence; in which order they arrived at Garret-lane, an insignificant dirty village in the parish of Wanda-

worth ; a place that has had the honor of giving the title of mayor to the most deformed and stupid of John Bull's children : the place well accords with the title.

The money spent on these occasions is very considerable : according to Grose, the qualification of voting, is in being able to swear, on a brick-bat, that he has had an amour in the open fields round Garret-lane.

The form of voting is also strictly adhered to : in fact, the election of Mayor of Garret is one of the most ludicrous scenes that this country ever exhibited.

On the election, it is generally expected that the candidates should *speechify* a little ; in order, therefore, to qualify them, they are taught an oration, which is always full of popular sentiments and promises ; assuring the electors, that they will lower the prices of gin, bread, beer, &c. make old women bishops ; and that they will accept of no place in the *House* : at the conclusion of each sentence volleys of applause always ensue ; after which they return to London in

glorious confusion ! The whole ceremony being a complete burlesque on elections.

Sir Jeffrey, in his perambulations, had always a sack thrown across his shoulder, his cry being, "Old Wigs;" hence he was more known in London by the appellation of "Old Wigs," than that of the Mayor of Garret.

He used to sell his portrait, with his speech, about the streets, of which he was very proud. The representation of him in our plate, is in the character of Dr. Last, which character he performed at the Haymarket Theatre.

Sir Jeffrey formed many a good subject for the print shops ; as a ridicule on the politicians and orators of his day. He was represented standing on a stool, asking this question, "How far was it from the first of August to Westminster-bridge."

His death was sudden ; for, on a certain occasion, drinking rather more than his usual quantity of juniper, his companions placed him in a wheel-barrow, and conveyed him to his lady, in Plough-street ; and, in a few hours after, he died smothered in liquor.





BARBARA URSELIN.

BARBARA URSLERIN.

THIS woman, who is the daughter of Balthasar and Anne Ursler, or Urslerin, was born at Augsburg, in High Germany. When the accompanying portrait was taken of her, she was in the twenty-fourth year of her age; and of the most frightful and hideous appearance.

It is stated, that Michael Vanbeck married this frightful creature, on purpose to carry her about for a show: her face and hands were all covered with hair. Her aspect resembled that of a monkey. She had a very long and large spreading beard, the hair of which hung loose and flowing, like the hair of the head. She used to exhibit herself in London, playing on a harpsichord, or organ, about the year 1668.

Great doubts were entertained whether she was a human being, or not. At the bottom of one of her portraits, the following note was writ-

ten ; which print was formerly in the possession of Mr. Frederich, bookseller, Bath :

“ This woman I saw in Ratchliffe-highway, in the year 1668, and was satisfied she was a woman.

“ JOHN BULFINCH.”





JONATHAN WILD.

JONATHAN WILD.

THE subject of the present sketch is a native of Staffordshire, and was born in the year 1682. He was the eldest son of his parents, who, at a proper age, put him to a day-school, where he continued till he had gained a sufficient knowledge in reading, writing, and accounts, to qualify him for business.

He entered into a matrimonial alliance at an early period of life, and in two years his wife bore him a son; soon after which he formed the resolution of visiting London, where he obtained employment; in consequence of which he totally deserted his wife and child, and appropriated the whole of his earnings to his own purposes. Being of an extravagant disposition, he was arrested and thrown into Wood-street Compter, where he remained a prisoner for debt upwards of four years.

During his residence in the Compter, Wild assiduously cultivated the acquaintance of the criminals, who were his fellow-prisoners, and attended to their different narrations of the exploits in which they had been engaged with singular satisfaction. In this prison was one Mary Milner, who had long been considered as one of the most notorious pickpockets and abandoned prostitutes on the town. With this woman Wild lived, and by their iniquitous practices they obtained a sum of money, which enabled them to open a little public-house in Cock-alley, facing Cripplegate-church, as a receptacle for stolen goods.

It was here that Wild received the stolen goods from all the thieves in London; encouraging robberies, and every thing that was infamous.

Wild finding his property rapidly accumulating, began to think himself a man of consequence: he dressed in laced clothes, and wore a sword, which he exercised on the woman he cohabited with, by cutting off her ear; in consequence of which a separation ensued; but Wild allowed her a weekly maintenance.

In the year 1715, Wild removed from his house in Cock-alley, to a Mrs. Seagoe's, in the Old Bailey, where he pursued his business with uncommon success, notwithstanding the efforts of Hitchen (his rival in iniquity) to suppress his proceedings.

The artful behaviour and punctuality with which Wild discharged his engagements, obtained him a great share of confidence among thieves of every denomination; insomuch, that if he intimated a wish to see them, they would attend him with the utmost willingness, without entertaining the most distant apprehension of danger, although conscious that he had informations against them, and that their lives were absolutely in his power; but, if ever they presumed to reject his proposals, or proved otherwise refractory, he would address them to the following effect; "I have given you my word that you should come and go in safety, and so you shall: but take care of yourself; for if ever you see me again, you see an enemy."

The great influence that Wild obtained over the thieves, will not be thought a very extraor-

dinary matter, when it is considered, that if he promised to use his endeavours for rescuing them from impending fate, he was generally able to succeed.

We shall now give our readers a relation of the most remarkable exploits of the hero of these pages; in which our account must necessarily include many particulars relating to other notorious characters.

A lady of fortune being on a visit in Piccadilly, her servants leaving her sedan at the door, went to refresh themselves at a neighbouring public-house. Upon their return, the vehicle was not to be found; in consequence of which the men immediately went to Wild, and having informed him of their loss, and complimented him with the usual fee, they were desired to call upon him again in a few days. Upon their second application, Wild extorted from them a considerable reward, and then directed them to attend the chapel in Lincoln's-inn-fields, on the following morning, during the time of prayers. The men went according to the appointment, and under the piazzas of the chapel perceived their chair,

which, upon examination, they found to contain the velvet seat, curtains, and other furniture, and that it had received no kind of damage.

Our adventurer's business increased exceedingly, and he opened an office in Newtoner's-lane, to which he appointed his man Abraham. This Israelite proved a remarkably industrious and faithful servant to Jonathan, who entrusted him with matters of the greatest importance.

By an intense application to business, Wild much impaired his health, so that he judged it prudent to retire into the country for a short time. He hired a lodging at Dulwich, leaving both offices under the direction of Abraham.

A lady had her pocket picked of bank-notes, to the amount of 7,000*l*. She related the particulars of her robbery to Abraham, who, in a few days, apprehended three pickpockets, and conducted them to Jonathan's lodgings at Dulwich. Upon their delivering up all the notes, Wild dismissed them. When the lady applied to Abraham, he restored her property; and she generously made him a present of four hundred pounds, which he delivered to his employer.

On account of his business, Wild did not remain long at Dulwich; and, being under great inconvenience from the want of Abraham's assistance, he closed the office in Newtoner's-lane for three months.

Information being laid against Wild for the rescue of Johnson, he judged it prudent to abscond, and he remained concealed for three weeks, at the end of which time, supposing all danger to be over, he returned to his house. Learning that Wild had returned, Mr. Jones, high-constable of Holborn division, went to his house in the Old Bailey, on the 15th of February, 1728, and apprehended him and Quilt Arnold, and took them before Sir John Freyer, who committed them to Newgate, on a charge of having assisted in the escape of Johnson.

On Wednesday, the 24th of the same month, Wild moved to be admitted to bail, discharged, or brought to trial that sessions. On the following Friday, a warrant of detainer was produced against him in court, and to it was affixed the following articles of information.

I. "That for many years past he had been a

confederate with great numbers of highwaymen, pickpockets, housebreakers, shoplifters, and other thieves.

II. "That he had formed a kind of corporation of thieves, of which he was the head or director ; and that, notwithstanding his pretended services in detecting and prosecuting offenders, he procured such only to be hanged as concealed their booty, or refused to share it with him.

III. "That he had divided the town and country into so many districts, and appointed distinct gangs for each, who regularly accounted with him for their robberies. That he had also a particular set to steal at churches in the time of divine service : and, likewise, other moving detachments to attend at court, on birth-days, balls, &c. and at both houses of parliament, circuits, and at country fairs.

IV. "That the persons employed by him were, for the most part, felon-convicts, who had returned from transportation before the time for which they were transported was expired, and that he made choice of them to be his agents, because

he had it in his power to take from them what part of stolen goods he thought fit, and otherwise used them ill, or hanged them, as he pleased.

V. "That he had, from time to time, supplied such convicted felons with money and clothes, and lodged them in his own house, the better to conceal them: particularly some, against whom there were then informations for counterfeiting and diminishing broad pieces, or guineas.

VI. "That he had not only been a receiver of stolen goods, as well as writings of all kinds, for near fifteen years past, but had frequently been a confederate, and robbed with the above-mentioned convicted felons,

VII. "That in order to carry on these vile practices, to gain some credit with the ignorant multitude, he usually carried a short silver staff, as a badge of authority from the government, which he used to produce when he himself was concerned in robbing.

VIII. "That he had under his care and direction, several warehouses for receiving and

concealing stolen goods: and also a ship for carrying off jewels, watches, and other valuable goods to Holland, where he had a superannuated thief for his factor.

IX. "That he kept in pay several artists to make alterations, and transform watches, seals, snuff-boxes, rings, and other valuable things, that they might not be known, several of which he used to present to such persons as he thought might be of service to him.

X. "That he seldom or never helped the owners to the notes and papers they had lost, unless he found them able exactly to specify and describe them, and then often insisted on more than half the value.

XI. "And lastly, it appears that he has often sold human blood, by procuring false evidence to swear persons into facts they were not guilty of, sometimes to prevent them being evidence against himself, and at other times for the sake of the great reward given by the government."

In the month of May, 1723, he was indicted

for privately stealing from the house of Catherine Stetham, of Holborn, fifty yards of lace, the property of the said Catherine. He was a second time indicted for feloniously receiving of the said Catherine, on the 10th of March, 1724, ten guineas on account, and under pretence of restoring the lace, without apprehending and prosecuting the felon who stole the property.

Previous to his trial, Wild distributed among the jurymen, and other persons who were walking on the leads before the court, a great number of printed papers, under the title of "*A list of persons discovered, apprehended, and convicted of several robberies on the highway; and also for burglary and housebreaking; and also for returning from transportation; by Jonathan Wild.*"

This bill contained the names of thirty-five for robbing on the highway; twenty-two for house-breaking; and ten for returning from transportation. To the list was annexed the following statement:—

"N. B. Several others have been also con-

victed of the like crimes, but remembering not the persons' names who had been robbed, I omit the criminals' names.

“ Please to observe, that several others have been also convicted of shop-lifting, picking of pockets, &c. by the female sex, which are capital crimes, and which are too tedious to be inserted here, and the prosecutors not willing of being exposed.

“ In regard, therefore, of the numbers above convicted, some that have yet escaped justice, are endeavouring to take away the life of the said

“ JONATHAN WILD.”

Lord Raymond presided when Wild was tried; and, in summing up the evidence, his lordship observed, that the guilt of the prisoner was a point beyond all dispute; but that as a similar case was not to be found in the law-books, it became his duty to act with great caution. He was not perfectly satisfied that the construction urged by the counsel for the crown could be put upon the indictment; and as the life of a

fellow-creature was at stake, recommended the prisoner to the mercy of the jury, who brought in their verdict, NOT GUILTY.

Wild was indicted a second time, for an offence committed during his confinement in Newgate. The jury pronounced him GUILTY, and, pursuant to his sentence, he was executed at Tyburn, on Monday, the 24th of May, 1725.

Wild, when under sentence of death, frequently declared, that he thought the service he had rendered the public, in returning stolen goods to the owners, and apprehending felons, was so great, as justly entitled him to the royal mercy. He said, that had he considered his case as being desperate, he should have taken timely measures for inducing some powerful friends, at Wolverhampton, to intercede in his favor; and that he thought it not unreasonable to entertain hopes of obtaining a pardon through the interest of some of the dukes, earls, and other persons of high distinction, who had recovered their property through his means. It was observed to him, that he had trained up a great number of thieves, and must be conscious that

he had not enforced the execution of the law from any principle of virtue, but had sacrificed the lives of a great number of his accomplices in order to provide for his own safety, and to gratify his desire of revenge against those who had incurred his displeasure.

He was observed to be in an unsettled state of mind; and being asked whether he knew the cause thereof, he said, he attributed his disorder to the many wounds he had received in apprehending felons, and particularly mentioned two fractures of his skull, and his throat being cut by Blueskin, one of his pupils.

He declined attending divine service in the chapel, excusing himself on account of his infirmities, and saying, there were many people highly exasperated against him, and therefore he could not expect but that his devotions would be interrupted by their insulting behaviour. He said he had fasted four days, which had greatly increased his weakness. He asked the Ordinary the meaning of the words, "Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree; and what was the state of the soul immediately after its departure from

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he body?" He was advised to direct his attention to matters of more importance, and sincerely to repent of the crimes he had committed.

By his desire the ordinary administered the sacrament to him, and during the ceremony he appeared to be somewhat attentive and devout. The evening preceding the day on which he suffered, he inquired of the ordinary whether self-murder could be deemed a crime, since many of the Greeks and Romans, who had put a period to their own lives, were so honorably mentioned by historians. He was informed, that the most wise and learned heathens accounted those guilty of the greatest cowardice, who had not fortitude sufficient to maintain themselves in that station, to which they had been appointed by the providence of Heaven; and that the christian doctrine condemned the practice of suicide in the most express terms.

He pretended to be convinced that self-murder was a most impious crime; but, about two in the morning, he endeavoured to put an end to his life by drinking laudanum. However, on account of the smallness of the dose, and his

having fasted for a considerable time, no other effect was produced than drowsiness, or a kind of stupefaction. The situation of Wild being observed by two of his fellow-prisoners, they advised him to rouse his spirits, that he might be able to attend to the devotional exercises, and taking him by the arms, they obliged him to walk, which he could not have done alone, being much afflicted with the gout. The exercise revived him a little; but he presently became exceedingly pale, and then grew very faint; a profuse sweating ensued; and soon afterwards his stomach discharged the greatest part of the laudanum.

Though he was now somewhat recovered he was nearly in a state of insensibility; and, in this situation, he was put in the cart, and conveyed to Tyburn.

In his way to the place of execution, the populace treated this offender with remarkable severity, incessantly pelting him with stones, dirt, &c. and execrating him as the most consummate villain that ever disgraced human nature.

Upon his arrival at Tyburn, he appeared to be much recovered from the effects of the laudanum; and the executioner informed him, that a reasonable time would be allowed him for preparing himself for the important change that he must soon experience. He continued sitting some time in the cart; but the populace were at length so enraged at the indulgence shewn him, that they outrageously called to the executioner to perform the duties of his office, violently threatening him with instant death if he presumed any longer to delay. He judged it prudent to comply with their demands; and, when he began to prepare for the execution, the popular clamour ceased.

About two o'clock on the following morning, the remains of Wild were interred in St. Pancras Church-yard: but a few nights afterwards the body, it was supposed, was taken up for the use of the surgeons. At midnight, a hearse and six were waiting at the end of Fig-lane, where the coffin was found the next day.

History cannot furnish an instance of such com-

plicated villany as was shewn in the character of Jonathan Wild, who possessed abilities, which had they been properly cultivated, and directed into a right course, would have rendered him a respectable and useful member of society ; but it is to be lamented, that the profligate turn of mind that distinguished him in the early part of his life, disposed him to adopt the maxims of the abandoned people with whom he became acquainted.

During his apprenticeship, Wild was observed to be fond of reading ; but, as his finances would not admit of his buying books, his studies were confined to such as casually fell in his way ; and they, unfortunately, happened to contain those abominable doctrines to which thousands have owed the ruin of both their bodies and souls. In short, at an early period of life he imbibed the principles of Atheism ; and, to the sentiments he thus early contracted, he strictly adhered till nearly the period of his dissolution.

Wild trained up and instructed his dependants in the practice of villany ; and when they became the objects of his displeasure, he laboured with

unremitting assiduity to procure their deaths. Thus his temporal and private interests sought gratification at the expence of every religious and moral obligation. We must conceive it to be impossible for a man acknowledging the existence of an Almighty Being, to implore his attention upon devising the means of corrupting his fellow-creatures, and cutting them off "even in the blossom of their sins;" but the Atheist having nothing after this world either to hope or fear, is only careful to secure himself from detection; and the success of one iniquitous scheme naturally induces him to engage in others, and the latter actions are generally attended with circumstances of more aggravated guilt than the former.

There is a principle implanted in our nature, that will exert itself when we are approaching to a state of dissolution, and impress our minds with a full confidence in the existence of an eternal God, who will reward or punish us according to our deserts or demerits. Thus it happened to the miserable subject of these pages, who, when he had relinquished the hope of surviving the sentence of the law, anxiously inquired into

the meaning of several texts of scripture, and concerning the intermediate state of the soul. The horrors of his guilt rushed upon his conscience with such force, that reflection became intolerable; and, instead of repenting of his enormous crimes, he employed his last moments, that were enlightened by reason, (the distinguished characteristic of humanity,) in meditating the means of self-destruction!


Jonathan Wild, or, as his biographer, Henry Fielding, very properly styles him, Jonathan Wild the Great, possessed a bold heart, a thundering voice, and a steady countenance; qualifications that were admirably adapted to facilitate his huge and wonderful undertakings. In circumstances that required colouring, Wild always kept as nearly to truth as possible; and that, as he used to observe in private, was turning the cannon of the enemy against themselves! "Permit me to assure you," said he to a friend, "although the idea may be somewhat coarse, I had rather stand on the *summit* of a *dung-hill*, than at the bottom of a hill in paradise: for did not the devil

declare, it was better to reign in hell than be a *valet-de-chambre* in heaven?" Jonathan, at an early period of his calling, laid down several maxims, as certain methods of obtaining greatness; among which are the following.—1. Never do more mischief to another than is necessary to effect your purposes, for mischief is too precious a thing to be thrown away. 2. To know no distinction of men from affection, but to sacrifice all with equal readiness to your interest. 3. Never communicate more of an affair than is necessary to the person who is to execute it. 4. To forgive no enemy; but be cautious, and often dilatory in revenge. 5. To shun poverty and distress. 6. To foment eternal jealousies in the gang one of another. 7. That a good name, like money, must be parted with, or at least greatly risked, to bring the owner any advantage. 8. That virtue, like precious stones, are easily counterfeited; that the counterfeits, in both cases, adorn the wearer equally, and that very few have the discernment sufficient to distinguish the counterfeit jewel from the real one. 9. Men should proclaim their own virtues, as shopkeepers expose their goods, in order to profit by them.

10. That the heart is the proper seat of hatred :
and the countenance of affection and friendship.

Fielding says, that Jonathan Wild picked the Ordinary's pocket of a cork-screw at the gallows, and died with it in his hand ; but, perhaps, this is an exaggeration. Jonathan's ruin could by no means be attributed to his want of depth in his schemes of villany. His body was covered with wounds and scars ; his throat had been cut, and his skull fractured in two places ; accidents which happened in various heroic contests between this great man and his pupils, nearly one hundred of whom he not only trained for, but personally arrested, convicted on his own oath, and, as it were, led to the gallows. Perjury was an undertaking which he considered as innocent ; whether directed to the ruin of an industrious tradesman, or to save, or take away, the life of a friend and coadjutor. Insolent and haughty in prosperity, he became dejected and timid in adversity ; for, unable either to bear the stings of conscience, or the approach of dissolution, he had recourse to intoxicating liquors, which deadened, without dispelling, his fears.

The house where Jonathan resided; in the Old Bailey, is yet standing: for a very curious and interesting history of which, we refer our readers to the *European Magazine*, December, 1812, where they will find also an exact representation of the dwelling.







JOHN ELWES, ESQ.

JOHN ELWES, Esq.

THIS eccentric gentleman, whose family name was Meggot, was born in the parish of St. James's, Westminster. His father was an eminent brewer, in Southwark, who placed his son at Westminster-school, where he made considerable progress in his studies: but, singular as it may appear, after he left the seminary, he scarcely ever read any book. From Westminster, he went to Geneva, where he laid the foundation of those sports for which he professed so much partiality to the day of his death: his contemporaries were Mr. Worsley, and Sir Sidney Meadows, who were reckoned the best horsemen in Europe. On his return to England, he found it his interest to increase the acquaintance of his uncle Sir Harvey Elwes, who was possessed of property to the amount of two hundred and fifty thousand pounds, and yet his yearly expenditure was less than one hundred and ten pounds.

John Elwes, the nephew of Sir Harvey, in the early part of his life, used to dress and live like other people; but this was not the way to please the uncle, so when he went to visit the old baronet, at his seat, he used to stop at a little inn at Chelmsford, where he began to *dress in character*—a pair of small iron buckles, worsted stockings, darned, a worn-out old coat, and a tattered waistcoat, were put on, and onwards he rode to visit his uncle, who used to contemplate him with a miserable kind of satisfaction, and seemed pleased to find his heir attempting to come up with him in the race of avarice. There would they sit—saving pair!—with a single stick upon the fire, and with one glass of wine occasionally betwixt them, talking over the extravagance of the times; and when evening shut in, they would retire to rest, as “going to bed saved candle-light.”

But the nephew had then, what he had always, a very extraordinary appetite, and this would have been a monstrous offence in the eye of the uncle; so Mr. Elwes was obliged to pick up a dinner first, with some neighbour in the country, and then return to Sir Harvey, with a diminutive appetite, that was quite engaging.

A partridge, a small pudding, and a potatoe, did the business! and the fire was suffered to go out while Sir Harvey was at dinner, as eating was quite exercise enough.

Of Sir Harvey, the entertaining biographer of John Elwes gives the following anecdotes:

As he had no acquaintances, no books, and no turn for reading, the hoarding up, and the counting his money, were his greatest joy. The next to that, was *partridge setting*; at which he was so great an adept, and game was then so plentiful, that he has been known to take 500 brace of birds in one season. But he lived upon partridges, he and his whole little household, consisting of one man and two maids. What they could not eat, he turned out again, as he never gave away any thing.

During the partridge season, Sir Harvey and his man never missed a day, if the weather was tolerable, and his breed of dogs being remarkably good, he seldom failed in taking great quantities of game. At all times, he wore a black velvet cap much over his face, a worn-out full-dressed

suit of clothes, and an old great coat, with worsted stockings drawn up over his knees. He rode a thin thorough-bred horse, and "the horse and his rider" both looked as if a gust of wind would have blown them away together.

When the day was not so fine as to tempt him abroad, he would walk backwards and forwards in his old hall, to save the expense of fire.

If a farmer in the neighbourhood came in, he would strike a light in a tinder-box, that he kept by him, and putting one single stick upon the grate, would not add another till the first was nearly burnt out.

As he had but little connection with London, he always had three or four thousand pounds at a time in his house. A set of fellows, who were afterwards known by the appellation of the *Thacksted gang*, and who were all hanged, formed a plan to rob him. They were totally unsuspected at the time, as each had some apparent occupation during the day, and went out only at night, and when they had got intelligence of any great booty.

It was the custom of Sir Harvey, to go up into his bed-chamber at eight o'clock, where, after taking a bason of water-gruel, by the light of a small fire, he went to bed, to save the unnecessary extravagance of a candle.

The gang, who knew the hour when his servant went to the stable, leaving their horses in a small grove on the Essex side of the river, walked across, and hid themselves in the church-porch till they saw the man come up to his horses. They then immediately fell upon him, and, after some little struggle, bound and gagged him: they then ran up towards the house, tied the two maids together, and going up to Sir Harvey presented their pistols, and demanded his money.

At no part of his life did Sir Harvey ever behave so well as in this transaction. When they asked for his money, he would give them no answer till they had assured him that his servant, who was a great favorite, was safe: he then delivered them the key of a drawer in which were fifty guineas. But they knew too well he had much more in the house, and again threatened

his life, without he discovered where it was deposited. At length, he shewed them the place, and they turned out a large drawer, where lay 2,700 guineas. This they packed up in two large baskets, and actually carried off. A robbery which, for quantity of specie, was perhaps never equalled. On quitting him, they told him they should leave a man behind, who would murder him if he moved for assistance. On which he very coolly, and with some simplicity, took out his watch, which they had not asked for, and said, "Gentlemen, I do not want to take any of you; therefore, upon my honor, I will give you twenty minutes for your escape: after that time, nothing shall prevent me from seeing how my servant does." He was as good as his word; when the time expired, he went and untied the man; but, though some search was made by the village, the robbers were not discovered.

When they were taken up some years afterwards for other offences, and were known to be the men who robbed Sir Harvey, he would not appear against them, saying to Mr. Harrington, his lawyer, "No, no, I have lost my money, and now you want me to lose my time also."

Of what temperance can do, Sir Harvey was an instance. At an early period of life, he was given over for a consumption, and he lived till betwixt eighty and ninety years of age.

Amongst the few acquaintance he had, was an occasional club at his village of Stoke; and there were members of it two baronets, beside himself, Sir Cordwell Firebras, and Sir John Barnardiston. However rich they were, the reckoning was always an object of their investigation. As they were one day settling this difficult point, an odd fellow, who was a member, called out to a friend who was passing, "For Heaven's sake, step up-stairs and assist the poor! here are three baronets worth a *million of money*, quarrelling about a farthing."

But if the character of the uncle was extraordinary, that of the nephew was still more so. He was fond of play to such a degree, as to sit up two days and a night without intermission, till he and his party were nearly up to their knees in cards. Yet, after sitting up a whole night at play for thousands, with the most fashionable and profligate men of the time, amidst splendid

rooms, gilt sophas, wax lights, and waiters attendant on his call, he would walk out about four in the morning, not towards home, but towards Smithfield, to meet his own cattle, which were coming to market from Thaydon Hall, a farm of his in Essex ! There would this same man, forgetful of the scenes he had just left, stand, in the cold or rain, bartering with a carcass-butcher for a shilling ! Sometimes, when the cattle did not arrive at the hour he expected, he would walk on, in the mire, to meet them ; and, more than once, he has gone on foot the whole way to his farm without stopping, which was seventeen miles from London, after sitting up the whole night.

Had every man been of the mind of Mr. Elwes, the race of innkeepers must have perished, and post-chaises have been returned back to those who made them ; for it was the business of his life to avoid both. He always travelled on horse-back ; and to see him setting out on a journey was truly curious : his first care was to put two or three eggs, boiled hard, into his great-coat pocket, or any scraps of bread which he found ; baggage he never took ; then, mounting one of

his hunters, his next attention was to get out of London, into that road where turnpikes were the fewest. Then, stopping under any hedge, where grass presented itself for his horse, and a little water for himself, he would sit down and refresh himself and his horse together. Here presenting a new species of Bramin, worth five hundred thousand pounds.

On the death of his uncle, Mr. Elwes came to reside at Stoke, in Suffolk. Bad as was the mansion-house he found here, he left one still worse behind him at Marcham; of which the late Colonel Timms, his nephew, used to mention the following proof. A few days after he went thither, a great quantity of rain fell in the night; he had not been long in bed, before he felt himself wet through; and, putting his hand out of the clothes, found the rain was dropping through the cieling upon the bed—he got up and moved the bed: but he had not lain long before he found the same inconvenience. Again he got up, and again the rain came down. At length, after pushing the bed quite round the room, he got into a corner where the cieling was better secured, and slept till morning. When

he met his uncle at breakfast, he told him what had happened. "Aye!—Aye!" said the old man—" *I don't mind it myself; but to those who do that's a nice corner in the rain!*"

Mr. Elwes was one of the best gentleman riders in the kingdom. His knowledge in horses was no way inferior; and, therefore, while he rode before the whole county of Suffolk, the horses he rode were the admiration of every body. As no bad proof of this, he had offered him for one of his hunters the sum of 300 guineas, and for another 250; a sum in those days almost incredible, when a very good horse might have been bought for fifteen pounds.

To modern sportsmen, accustomed to warm clothing and hot stables, his manner of treating them may appear singular. As soon as they were perfectly dry from hunting, if the weather was clear, he always turned them out for two or three hours, let the cold be ever so intense. Thus they walked off the stiffness occasioned by fatigue, and preserved their feet: to this he attributed their being able to carry him when one of them was twenty-two years old.

To Mr. Elwes, an inn upon the road and an apothecary's bill were equal subjects of aversion. The words "*give*" and "*pay*," were not found in his vocabulary; and therefore when he once received a very dangerous kick from one of his horses, who fell in going over a leap, nothing could persuade him to have any assistance. He rode the chase through, with his leg cut to the bone; and it was only some days afterwards, when it was feared an amputation would be necessary, that he consented to go up to London, and, hard day! part with some money for advice.

No hounds were more killing ones than those of Mr. Elwes. The wits of the country used to say, "it must be so, or they would get nothing to eat." In truth, it may be credited, they lived but sparingly: scarcely will it be believed, that the whole fox-hunting establishment of Mr. Elwes, huntsman, dogs, and horses, did not cost him 300*l.* a year.

In the summer, they always passed their lives with the different tenants, where they had "more

meat and less work ;" and were collected together a few days before the season began.

During this time, while he kept hounds, and which consumed a period of nearly fourteen years, Mr. Elwes almost totally resided at Stoke, in Suffolk. From thence he made frequent excursions to Newmarket; but he never engaged on the turf.

A kindness, however, which he performed there, should not pass altogether unnoticed.

Lord Abingdon, who was slightly known to Mr. Elwes, in Berkshire, had made a match for seven thousand pounds, which it was supposed he would be obliged to forfeit, from an inability to produce the sum, though the odds were greatly in his favor. Unasked, unsolicited, Mr. Elwes made him an offer of the money, which he accepted, and won his engagement. The generosity of this act no one will deny; but it was the fate of Mr. Elwes to combine some great actions with a meanness so extraordinary, that he no longer appeared one and the same person.

The anecdote which accompanied it, I had not long ago from a clergyman, on whose authority I can place the most perfect reliance.

On the day when this match was to be run, he had agreed to accompany Mr. Elwes to see the fate of it. They were to go, as was the custom of Mr. Elwes, on horseback, and were to set out at seven in the morning. Imagining they were to breakfast at Newmarket, the gentleman took no refreshment, and away they went. They reached Newmarket about eleven, and Mr. Elwes began to busy himself in inquiries and conversation till twelve, when the match was decided in favor of Lord Abingdon. He then thought they should move off to the town, to take some breakfast: but old Elwes still continued riding about till three, and then four arrived; at which time the gentleman grew so impatient, that he mentioned something of the keen air of Newmarket-heath, and the comforts of a good dinner. "Very true," said old Elwes; "very true—so here, do as I do!" offering him at the same time, from his great-coat pocket, a piece of an old crushed pancake, which he said he had brought from his house at Marcham two

months before—but, “that it was as good as new.”

The sequel of the story was, that they did not reach home till nine in the evening, when the gentleman was so tired, that he gave up all refreshment but rest; and old Elwes, having hazarded seven thousand pounds in the morning, went happily to bed with the reflection, that he had saved three shillings! Such were the extraordinary contradictions of this extraordinary man! But not amongst strangers alone was money with him the dearest object of his life. He had brought with him his two sons out of Berkshire, and certainly if he liked any thing, it was these boys. But no money would he lavish on their education! for he declared, that, “putting things into people’s heads, was the sure way to take money out of their pockets.”

That Mr. Elwes was not troubled with too much natural affection, the following little anecdote will testify. One day he had put his eldest boy upon a ladder, to get some grapes for the table, when, by the ladder slipping, he fell down, and hurt his side against the end of it. The

boy had the precaution to go up into the village, to the barber, and get blooded : on his return, he was asked where he had been, and what was the matter with his arm ? He told his father that he had got bled. " Bled ! bled !" said the old gentleman ; " but what did you give ? "—" A shilling," answered the boy. " Psha !" returned the father, " you are a blockhead : never part with your blood."

From the parsimonious manner in which Mr. Elwes now lived, for he was fast following the footsteps of Sir Harvey, and from the two large fortunes of which he was in possession, riches rolled in upon him like a torrent. And had he been gifted with that clear and fertile head, which, patient in accumulation, and fruitful in disposition, knows how to employ as well as to accumulate ; which working from principal to interest, by compounding, forms a principal again, and makes money generate itself ; had he possessed such a head as this, his wealth would have exceeded all bounds. But Nature, which sets limits to the ocean, forbade, perhaps, this monstrous inundation of property ; and as Mr. Elwes knew almost nothing of accounts, and

never reduced his affairs to writing, he was obliged, in the disposal of his money, to trust much to memory; to the suggestions of other people still more. Hence, every person, who had a want or a scheme, with an apparent high interest, adventurer or honest it signified not, all was prey to him, and he swam about like the enormous pike, which, ever voracious and unsatisfied, catches at every thing, till it is itself caught! Hence are to be reckoned visions of distant property in America; phantoms of annuities on lives that could never pay, and bureaus filled with bonds of *promising* peers and members, long dismembered of all property. I do not exaggerate when I say, I believe Mr. Elwes lost in this manner, during his life, full 150,000*l.*; but, perhaps, in this ordination Providence was all-wise. In the life of Mr. Elwes, the luxuriant sources of industry or enjoyment all stood still.

He encouraged no art; he bestowed not on any improvement; he diffused no blessing around him; and the distressed received nothing from his hand. What was got from him, was only obtained from his want of knowledge—by knowledge that was superior; and knaves and

sharpers might have lived upon him, while poverty and honesty would have starved.

But not to the offers of high interest alone were his ears open. The making him trifling presents, or doing business for him for nothing—were little snug allurements, which, in the hands of the needy, always drew him on to a loan of money. A small wine-merchant, who had these views, begged his acceptance of some very fine wine, and, in a short time, obtained the loan of some hundred pounds. Old Elwes used, ever after, to say, “indeed *very fine wine*, for it cost him 20*l.* a bottle!”

Thus was there a reflux of some of that wealth which he was gradually denying himself every comfort to amass. For, in the penury of Mr. Elwes, there was something that seemed like a judgment from heaven. All earthly comforts he voluntarily denied himself: he would walk home in the rain, in London, sooner than pay a shilling for a coach; he would sit in wet clothes sooner than have a fire to dry them; he would eat his provisions in the last state of putrefaction sooner than have a fresh joint from the but-

cher's ; and he wore a wig for above a fortnight, which I saw him pick up out of a rut in a lane, where we were riding. This was the last extremity of laudable economy ; for, to all appearance, it was the cast-off wig of some beggar ! The day in which I first beheld him in this ornament exceeded all power of face, for instead of a brown coat, which he generally wore, he had been obliged to have recourse to the old chest of Sir Jervaise, from whence he had selected a full-dressed green velvet coat, with slash sleeves ; and there he sat at dinner in boots, the aforesaid green velvet, his own hair appearing round his face, and this black stray wig at the top of all. A Captain Roberts, who was with us at the time, and who had a great respect for Elwes, was unable to sit at dinner for laughing.

When this inordinate passion for saving did not interfere, there are upon record some kind offices and very active services undertaken by Mr. Elwes. He would go far and near to serve those who applied to him : and *give*—however strange the word from him—would give himself great trouble to be of use. These instances are gratifying to select ; it is plucking the sweet-

briar and the rose from the weeds that overspread the garden.

When Mr. Elwes was at Marcham, two very ancient ladies in his neighbourhood had, for some neglect, incurred the displeasure of the spiritual court, and were threatened with immediate "*excommunication*." The whole import of the word they did not perfectly understand, but they had heard something about standing in a church, and a penance, and their ideas immediately ran upon a *white sheet*. They concluded, if they once got into that, it was all over with them; and as the excommunication was to take place the next day, away they hurried to Mr. Elwes, to know how they could make submission, and how the sentence might be prevented. No time was to be lost. Mr. Elwes did that which, fairly speaking, not one man in five thousand would have done; he had his horse saddled, and putting, according to his usual custom, a *couple of hard eggs* in his pocket, he set out for London that evening, and reached it early enough the next morning to notify the submission of the culprit damsels. Riding sixty miles in the night, to confer a favor on two antiquated virgins, to

whom he had no particular obligation, was really what not one man in five thousand would have done ; but where personal fatigue could serve, Mr. Elwes never spared it.

The ladies were so overjoyed—so thankful—“so much trouble and expense!—what returns could they make?” To ease their consciences on this head, an old Irish gentleman, their neighbour, who knew Mr. Elwes’s mode of travelling, wrote these words : “My dears, is it expence you are talking of? Send him *sixpence* and he gains *two-pence* by the journey.”

Mr. Elwes, from his father, had inherited some property in houses, in London ; particularly about the Haymarket, not far from which he drew his first breath—for, by his register, it appears he was born in St. James’s parish. To this property he began now to add, by engagements with one of the Adams’s, about building, which he increased from year to year to a very large extent. Great part of Mary-le-bone soon called him her founder. Portland-place and Portman-square, the riding-houses and stables of the second troop of life-guards, and buildings

too numerous to name, all rose out of his pocket. And had not Lord North and his American war kindly put a stop to this rage of raising houses, much of the property he then possessed would have been laid out in bricks and mortar.

The extent of his property, in houses, soon grew so great, that he became from calculation his own insurer; and he stood to all his own losses by conflagrations. He soon, therefore, became a philosopher upon fire. And I remember well, on a public-house, belonging to him, being consumed, that he said, with great composure—"Well, well, there is no great harm done: the tenant never paid me; and I should not have got quit of him so quickly in any other way."

In possessions so large, of course it would happen that some of the houses were without a tenant, and therefore it was the custom of Mr. Elwes, whenever he went to London, to occupy any of those premises which might happen to be vacant. He had thus a new way of seeing London and its inhabitants, for he travelled, in this manner, from street to street; and, whenever any body chose to take the house where he was, he was al-

ways ready to move into any other. He was frequently an itinerant for a night's lodgings; and, though master of above a hundred houses, he never wished to rest his head long in any he chose to call his own. A couple of beds, a couple of chairs, a table, and an old woman, were all his furniture, and he moved them about at a minute's warning. Of all these moveables, the old woman was the only one that gave him trouble, for she was afflicted with a lameness that made it difficult to get her about quite so fast as he chose: and, then, the colds she took were amazing, for sometimes she was in a small house in the Haymarket; at another, in a great house in Portland-place; sometimes in a little room and a coal fire; at other times with a few chips which the carpenters had left, in rooms of most splendid but frigid dimensions, and with a little oiled paper in the windows for glass. In truth, she perfectly realised the proverb, for she certainly was "here to-day, and gone to-morrow."

The scene which terminated the life of this old woman, is not the least singular among the anecdotes that are recorded of Mr. Elwes: but it is too well authenticated to be doubted. I had the

circumstance related to me by the late Colonel Timms himself.

Mr. Elwes had come to town in his usual way, and taken up his abode in one of his houses that was empty. Colonel Timms, who wished much to see him, by some accident was informed that his uncle was in London, but then how to find him was the difficulty. He inquired at all the usual places where it was probable he might be heard of: he went to Mr. Hoare's, his banker, and to the Mount coffee-house, but no tidings were to be heard of him. Not many days afterwards, however, he learnt from a person, whom he met accidentally, that Mr. Elwes had been seen going into an uninhabited house in Great Marlborough-street. This was some clue to Colonel Timms, and away he went thither. As the best mode of information, he got hold of a chairman, but no intelligence could he gain of a gentleman called Mr. Elwes. Colonel Timms then described his person, but no such gentleman had been seen. At last, a pot-boy recollected that he had seen a poor old man opening the door of the stable, and locking it after him: and,

from every description, it agreed with the person of old Mr. Elwes. Of course Colonel Timms went to the house: he knocked very loudly at the door, but no one answered. Some of the neighbours said they had seen such a man, but no answer could be obtained from the house. On this added information, however, Colonel Timms resolved to have the stable-door opened, and a blacksmith was sent for, and they entered the house together. In the lower parts of it all were shut and silent. On ascending the staircase, however, they heard the moans of a person seemingly in distress. They went to the chamber, and there, upon an old pallet bed, lay stretched out, seemingly in death, the figure of old Mr. Elwes. For some time he seemed insensible that any body was near him; but, on some cordials being administered by a neighbouring apothecary, who was sent for, he recovered enough to say, "that he had, he believed, been ill for two, if not three days, and that there was an old woman in the house, but, for some reason or other, she had not been near him: that she had been ill herself, but that she had got well, he supposed, and gone away."

On repairing to the garrets, they found the old woman, the companion of all his movements, and the partner of all his journeys, stretched out lifeless on a rug upon the floor ! To all appearance she had been dead about two days.

Thus died the servant, and thus would have died, but for the providential discovery of him by Colonel Timms, old Mr. Elwes, her master !

On a dissolution of parliament, in 1774, a contest for Berkshire presented itself, when, to preserve the peace of that county, Mr. Elwes was nominated by Lord Craven.

Mr. Elwes, though he had retired from public business for some years, had still left about him some of the seeds of more active life, and he agreed to the proposal. It came farther enhanced to him by the agreement that he was to be brought in by the freeholders for nothing ; I believe all he did was dining at the ordinary, at Reading ; and he got into parliament for eighteen-pence.

On being elected member for Berkshire, he

left Suffolk, and went again to his seat at Marcham. His fox-hounds he carried along with him; but, finding his time would, in all probability be much employed, he resolved to relinquish his hounds; and they were shortly after given away to some farmers in that neighbourhood.

Though a new man, Mr. Elwes could not be called a young member, for he was at this time nearly sixty years old, when he thus entered on public life. But he was in possession of all his activity, and, preparatory to his appearance on the boards of St. Stephen's chapel, he used to attend constantly, during the races and other public meetings, all the great towns where his voters resided. At the different assemblies he would dance amongst the youngest, to the last; after riding over on horseback, and frequently in the rain, to the place of meeting.

A gentleman, who was one night standing by, observed on the extraordinary agility of so old a man. "O! that is nothing," replied another, "for Mr. Elwes, to do this, rode twenty miles in the rain, with his shoes stuck into his boots, and his bag-wig in his pocket."

At a period when men, in general, retire from public and fatiguing scenes, Mr. Elwes resumed them: and became an unexperienced member of parliament, aged sixty. However opposite the whole of his life hitherto might have been to any thing that had the appearance of vanity, yet I have the testimony of many members of the House of Commons to assure me, he was not a little vain of this situation. And the facility with which various parliamentary gentlemen persuaded him, for a time, to confer certain obligations on them, is some evidence that he once thought very highly of the honor of representation.

In three successive parliaments Mr. Elwes was chosen for Berkshire; and he sat as member of the House of Commons about twelve years. It is to his honor, a honor in these times, indeed, most rare! that in every part of his conduct, and in every vote he gave, he proved himself to be what he truly was, an independent country gentleman. The character which Mr. Elwes supported in parliament has been imitated but by few, and excelled by none. For, wishing for no post, desirous of no rank, wanting not emolu-

ment, and being most perfectly conscientious, he stood aloof from all those temptations which have led many good men astray from the paths of honor. All that a minister could have offered to Mr. Elwes, would have been of no avail: for posts of dignity would only have embarrassed him, by taking him away from the privacy he loved. As an instance of this, he was unhappy for some days, on hearing that Lord North intended to apply to the king to make him a peer. I really believe, had such an honor fallen unexpectedly upon his head, it would have been the death of him. He never would have survived the being obliged to keep a carriage, and three or four servants, all, perhaps, better dressed than himself.

Through every period of his life, it was a prevalent feature in his character to be thought poor, that he could not afford to live as other people did, and that the reports of his being rich were entirely erroneous.

To these ideas he thought he gave strength, by having no servants, nor any of the external

signs of wealth : and he had persuaded himself, that the public would really think he had no money, because he made no use of any.

The honor of parliament made no alteration in the dress of Mr. Elwes; on the contrary, it seemed at this time to have attained additional meanness, and nearly to have reached that happy climax of poverty, which had, more than once, drawn on him the compassion of those who passed by him in the street.

For the speaker's dinners, however, he had one suit, with which the speaker, in the course of the session, became very familiar. The minister, likewise, was very well acquainted with it; and at any dinner of opposition, still was his apparel the same. The wits of the minority used to say, "That they had full as much reason as the minister to be satisfied with Mr. Elwes, as he had the same habit with every body."

At this period of his life Mr. Elwes wore a wig. Much about the time when his parliamentary life ceased, that wig was worn out; so then, being older and wiser as to expense, he wore his

own hair, which, like his expenses, was very small.

The debates at this period were very long and interesting, and generally continued till a late hour in the morning. Mr. Elwes, who never left any company, public or private, the first, always stayed out the whole debate. After the division, Mr. Elwes, without a great-coat, would immediately go out of the House of Commons into the cold air, and, merely to save the expense of a hackney-coach, walk to the Mount coffee-house. Sir Joseph Mawbey and Mr. Wood, of Littleton, who went the same way as Mr. Elwes did, often proposed a hackney-coach to him, but the reply always was, "he liked nothing so well as walking." However, when their hackney-coach used to overtake him, he had no objection to coming in to them, knowing that they must pay the fare. This circumstance happened so often, that they used to smile at this act of little cunning, and indulge him in it.

But as the satisfaction of being conveyed home for nothing did not always happen, on those nights when it did not, Mr. Elwes invariably

continued his plan of walking. A circumstance happened to him on one of these evenings, which gave him a whimsical opportunity of displaying that disregard of his own person which I have before noticed. The night was very dark, and, hurrying along, he went with such violence against the pole of a sedan-chair, which he did not see, that he cut both his legs very deeply. As usual, he thought not of any assistance; but Colonel Timms, at whose house he then was, in Orchard-street, insisted upon some one being sent for. Old Elwes at length submitted, and an apothecary was called in, who immediately began to expatiate on "the bad consequences of breaking the skin, the good fortune of his being sent for, and the peculiar bad appearance of Mr. Elwes's wound." "Very probable," said old Elwes, "but, Mr. —, I have one thing to say to you: in my opinion my legs are not much hurt; now you think they are, so I will make this agreement: I will take one leg, and you shall take the other: you shall do what you please with yours, and I will do nothing to mine; and I will wager your bill my leg gets well the first."

I have frequently heard him mention, with great triumph, that he beat the apothecary by a fortnight!

All this time the income of Mr. Elwes was increasing hourly, and his present expenditure was next to nothing; for the little pleasures he had once engaged in, he had now given up. He kept no house, and only one old servant and a couple of horses: he resided with his nephew; his two sons he had stationed in Suffolk and Berkshire, to look after his respective estates; and his dress certainly was no expense to him; for, had not other people been more careful than himself, he would not have had it even mended.

When he left London, he went on horseback to his country seats, with his couple of hard eggs, and without once stopping upon the road at any house. He always took the most unfrequented road, but Marcham was the seat he now chiefly visited; which had some reason to be flattered with the preference, as his journey into Suffolk cost him only two-pence half-penny, while that into Berkshire amounted to fourpence!

In his speculations upon lending money, Mr. Elwes was, at one time, most unbounded; but the temptation of one per cent. more than the funds or landed property would give, was irresistible. But amongst the sums he thus vested in other people's hands, some stray, forlorn instances of feeling may be remembered; of which the following is an instance. When his son was in the guards, he was frequently in the habit of dining at the officers' table there. The politeness of his manners rendered him agreeable to every one, and in time he became acquainted with every officer in the corps; amongst the rest with a gentleman of the name of Tempest, whose good humour was almost proverbial. A vacancy happening in a majority, it fell to this gentleman to purchase; but as money is not always to be got upon landed property immediately, it was imagined some officer would have been obliged to purchase over his head. Old Mr. Elwes heard of the circumstance, and sent him the money next morning. He asked no security; he had seen Captain Tempest, and liked his manners; and he never afterwards talked to him about the payment of it. On the death of Major Tempest, which happened shortly after, the mo-

ney was replaced. That Mr. Elwes was no loser by the event, does not take away from the merit of the deed. And it stands amongst those singular records of his character, that reason has to reconcile, or philosophy to account for, that the same man, at one and the same moment, could be prodigal of thousands, and yet almost to deny himself the necessaries of life!

The following anecdote, exemplifying the truth of this, comes on the respected authority of Mr. Spurling, of Dynes-hall, a very active and intelligent magistrate for the county of Essex. It seems Mr. Elwes had requested Mr. Spurling to accompany him to Newmarket. It was a day in one of the spring meetings, which was remarkably filled with races; and they were out from six in the morning till eight o'clock in the evening, before they again set out for home. Mr. Elwes, in the usual way, would eat nothing, but Mr. Spurling was somewhat wiser, and went down to Newmarket. When they began their journey home, the evening was grown very dark and cold, and Mr. Spurling rode on somewhat quicker; and, on going through the turnpike, by the Devil's ditch, he heard Mr. Elwes calling

to him with great eagerness. On returning, before he had paid, Mr. Elwes said, "Here ! here ! follow me ! this is the best road !" In an instant he saw Mr. Elwes, as well as the night would permit, climbing his horse up the precipice of the ditch. "Sir," said Mr. Spurling, "I can never get up there."—"No danger at all !" replied old Elwes, "but if your horse be not safe lead him !" At length, with great difficulty, and with one of the horses falling, they mounted the ditch, and then, with not less toil, got down on the other side. When they were safe landed on the plain, Mr. Spurling thanked heaven for their escape. "Aye," said old Elwes, "you mean from the turnpike ! very right ; never pay a turnpike if you can avoid it !" In proceeding on their journey, they came to a very narrow road ; at which Mr. Elwes, notwithstanding the cold, went as slowly as possible. On Mr. Spurling wishing to quicken their pace, old Elwes observed, that he was letting his horse feed on some hay, that was hanging on the sides of the hedge,—"besides," added he, "it is nice hay, and you have it for nothing."

These pleasant acts of endangering his neck

to save the payment of a turnpike, and starving himself for a halfpenny worth of hay, happened, from the date of them, at the time he was risking twenty-five thousand pounds on some iron-works across the Atlantic ocean, and of which he knew nothing, either as to produce, prospect, or situation.

At the close of the spring of 1785, he wished again to visit, which he had not done for some years, his seat at Stoke. But then the journey was a most serious object to him. His old servant was dead; all the horses that remained with him were a couple of worn-out brood-mares, and he himself was not in that vigour of body in which he could ride sixty or seventy miles on the sustenance of two boiled eggs. The mention of a post-chaise would have been a crime. "He afford a post-chaise, indeed! where was he to get the money?" would have been the exclamation.

At length he was carried into the country, as he was carried into parliament, free of expense, by a gentleman who was certainly not quite so rich as Mr. Elwes. When he reached his seat

at Stoke—the seat of more active scenes, of somewhat resembling hospitality, and where his fox-hounds had spread somewhat like vivacity around—he remarked, “he had expended a great deal of money once, very foolishly : but that a man grew wiser by time.”

The rooms, at his seat at Stoke, that were now much out of repair, and would have all fallen in, but for his son, John Elwes, Esq. who had resided there, he thought too expensively furnished, as worse things might have done. If a window was broken, there was to be no repair but that of a little brown paper, or that of piecing a bit of broken glass, which had at length been done so frequently, and in so many shapes, that it would have puzzled a mathematician to say “what figure they described.” To save fire, he would walk about the remains of an old green-house, or sit with a servant in the kitchen. During the harvest, he would amuse himself with going into the fields to glean the corn on the grounds of his own tenants ; and they used to leave a little more than common, to please the old gentleman, who was as eager after it as any pauper in the parish.

In the advance of the season, his morning employment was to pick up any stray chips, bones, or other things, to carry to the fire, in his pocket—and he was one day surprised by a neighbouring gentleman, in the act of pulling down, with some difficulty, a crow's nest, for this purpose. On the gentleman wondering why he gave himself this trouble—"O, sir," replied old Elwes, "it is really a shame that these creatures should do so. Do but see what waste they make! They don't care how extravagant they are!"

As no gleam of favorite passion, or any ray of amusement, broke through this gloom of penury, his insatiable desire of saving was now become uniform and systematic. He used still to ride about the country on one of these mares, but then he rode her very economically; on the soft turf adjoining the road, without putting himself to the expense of shoes, as he observed, "the turf was so pleasant to a horse's foot!" And when any gentleman called to pay him a visit, and the boy who attended in the stables was profuse enough to put a little hay before his horse, old Elwes would sily steal back into the stable, and take the hay very carefully away.

That very strong appetite which Mr. Elwes had in some measure restrained during the long sitting of parliament, he now indulged most voraciously, and on every thing he could find. To save, as he thought, the expense of going to a butcher, he would have a whole sheep killed, and so eat mutton to the end of the chapter. When he occasionally had his river drawn, though sometimes horse-loads of small fish were taken, not one would he suffer to be thrown in again, for he observed, "he should never see them again!" Game, in the last state of putrefaction, and meat that walked about his plate, would he continue to eat, rather than have new things killed before the old provision was finished.

With this diet—the charnel-house of sustenance—his dress kept pace, equally in the last stage of absolute dissolution. Sometimes he would walk about in a tattered brown-coloured hat; and sometimes in a red and white woollen cap, like a prisoner confined for debt.

When any friends who might be with him were absent, he would carefully put out his own fire, and walk to the house of a neighbour, and thus

make one fire serve both. In short, whatever Cervantes or Moliere have pictured in their most sportive moods of avarice in the extreme, here might they have seen realised or surpassed.

His shoes he never would suffer to be cleaned, lest they should be worn out the sooner.

This extraordinary man retained his characteristic traits to his death, which happened November 26, 1789.





D. DANCER.

DANIEL DANCER, Esq.

MR. DANCER was born in the year 1716, near Harrow-on-the-hill, in the county of Middlesex, but was removed in his infancy to Pinner, in the same county. A parsimonious and miserly disposition were distinguishing traits in his character. His father had three sons and one daughter, each of whom was distinguished for certain peculiarities, either of mind or body. A penurious disposition, however, was the most prominent; indeed, it seems to have been hereditary, for it ran through the family. It is a circumstance worthy of notice, that Mr. Dancer did not, in his early years, betray that excessive love for money for which he became afterwards celebrated. This disclosure of his soul was reserved for maturer years. When his father died he became independent, and then he began to act the part of a miser. Such was the eccentricity of his character, that though he scarcely allowed himself

the common necessities of life, he left property to the amount of 3,000*l.* a-year to Lady Tempest and Captain Holmes. So perfectly penurious was he in his disposition, that rather than expend a penny, he frequently had recourse to the pot-liquor of Lady Tempest's kitchen ; of which he would drink so enormously as to be obliged to roll himself on the floor to sleep. He generally had his body girt by a hay-band, to keep together his tattered garments ; and the stockings he usually wore had been so frequently darned and patched, that scarcely any of the original could be seen. In cold and dirty weather they were thickly covered with ropes of hay, which served as substitutes for boots. His whole garb, indeed, resembled that of a miserable mendicant. He had an old horse, but would only allow him shoes for his fore-feet, deeming those for the hind-feet as an unnecessary expence.

Mr. Dancer would never take snuff, conceiving it to be extravagant, though he always carried a snuff-box : this he generally filled in the course of a month, by pinches obtained from others ! when the box was full, he would barter the contents for a farthing candle at a neighbouring

chandler's shop ; this candle served him till he had time to fill the box again, as he never suffered any light in his house except while he was going to bed ! He seldom washed his face or hands ; but when the sun shone forth he would repair to a neighbouring pool, and substitute sand for soap : when he had performed the operation of washing, he would lie on his back and dry himself with the solar beams ; as he never used a towel, because it would wear out, and when dirty the washing would be expensive. Having come to London one day for the purpose of investing 2,000*l.* in the funds, a gentleman near the Royal Exchange observed him, and taking him for a wretched beggar, humanely slipped a penny into his hand, which the old man received with a degree of surprise ; but, instantly recollecting that "every little helps," he pocketed the affront and walked on.

This parsimonious man never had more than one shirt at a time, which, being purchased at an old clothes-shop, seldom exceeded half-a-crown in price ; nor did it ever, after falling into his possession, undergo the operation of either washing or mending, but was doomed to perpetual slavery, till

it literally dropt in pieces from his back. Hence, it may naturally be supposed, that, though Mr. Dancer seldom associated with his neighbours, he was at all times attended by a very numerous company, whose personal attachment rendered mankind extremely cautious of approaching him. In the purchase of an old shirt, he once supposed himself cheated by a woman of the vast sum of three-pence; in consequence of which he commenced a suit against her in the Court of Conscience; Mr. Dancer was, however, nonsuited; and, besides the original debt of three-pence, he incurred the expence of near five shillings for costs. To add to his distress, he expended on the road from Pinner to London, and back again, three-half-pence more.

Lady Tempest was the only person who had the least influence on this wretched miser; and, though she knew that she should share the bulk of his fortune with Captain Holmes, she endeavoured to persuade him to enjoy the good things of this life, but in vain. Once, indeed, she prevailed upon him to purchase an old hat (having worn his own for three years) from a Jew, for a shilling, but, to her great astonishment, when she

called the next day, she beheld the old cha-
peau on his head. On inquiry, it appeared,
that he had prevailed on old Griffiths, his ser-
vant, to purchase the hat of him, at the advanced
price of eighteen-pence, and congratulated him-
self on his dexterity in clearing sixpence by the
transaction. One day, Lady Tempest sent him a
present of trout, stewed in claret, of which he
was extremely fond; it was frosty weather, and,
being kept all night, it was frozen almost into
ice: being much afflicted with the tooth-ache, he
could not touch it, and to light a fire he thought
expensive; therefore, as he generally lay in bed
to keep himself warm in cold weather, he caused
the fish and sauce to be put between two pew-
ter plates, on which he sat till the rich repast was
tolerably warm. Of lawyers and physicians he
entertained a very unfavorable opinion; and, to
use his own expression, sooner than have any
connection with the former, he would rather deal
with the devil; and, as to the latter, he main-
tained that, all the gentlemen of the faculty were
medical tinkers, who, in endeavouring to patch
up one blemish in the human frame, never failed
to make ten. Such were Mr. Dancer's ideas.
He seemed to have had something of the heaven

of predestination in his composition, for, while his sister lay upon her death-bed, being importuned to call in medical assistance, he sternly replied, "Why should I waste my money in wickedly endeavouring to counteract the will of Providence." Perhaps the dread of expence operated more powerfully upon him than his religious tenets.

During his last illness, Lady Tempest accidentally called upon him, and finding him lying without a shirt, in an old sack, in which he was completely enveloped, remonstrated against the impropriety of such a situation; when he replied that, "having come into the world without a shirt, he was determined to go out of it in the same manner." She then requested him to have a pillow to raise his head, when he immediately ordered his old servant Griffiths to bring him a truss of straw for that purpose.

Mr. Dancer's house, which is now in the possession of Captain Holmes, is a most miserable building, and has not been repaired for half a century; though poor in external appearance, it has, however, been recently discovered to be

very rich within ; Captain Holmes having, at different times, found large bowls filled with guineas and half-guineas, and parcels of bank-notes stuffed under covers of old chairs ! He died October, 1794. Since his death, large jugs of dollars and shillings have been found in the stable. At the dead of night he has been known to go to this place, but for what purpose even old Griffiths could not tell. It now appears, however, that he used to rob one jug to add to the bowl, which was found buried in the kitchen.

Mr. Dancer's principal acquaintance, and the most congenial to his soul, was the miserable Jemmy Taylor, of the Borough. They became acquainted at the Stock Exchange, where they chanced to meet ; from this, their visits to each other became frequent. Jemmy was quite as great a miser as Dancer, but used not to go so shabbily dressed.—And here we leave them, sad instances of the weakness and insignificance of man !

MISS RANGLES,

THE CAMBRIAN MUSICAL PRODIGY.

Engraved from an original Miniature, painted when three years of age, by Moses Griffiths, (who accompanied the celebrated Mr. Pennant in his Tours,) presented to the Editor by a Friend.

THIS engaging child was born at Wrenham, in Wales, August, 1800; of which parish her father was organist: he was a very fine harper, (the same as mentioned in Miss Seward's poem of *Elanoglen Vale* :) and lost his sight by the small-pox, when only three years of age.

Miss Rangles, when sixteen months old, shewed strong musical powers. She actually could, at that early period, play the treble of two tunes on the piano-forte, viz. "The Blue Bells of Scotland," and "Charley over the Water." In a few months afterwards the editor heard her



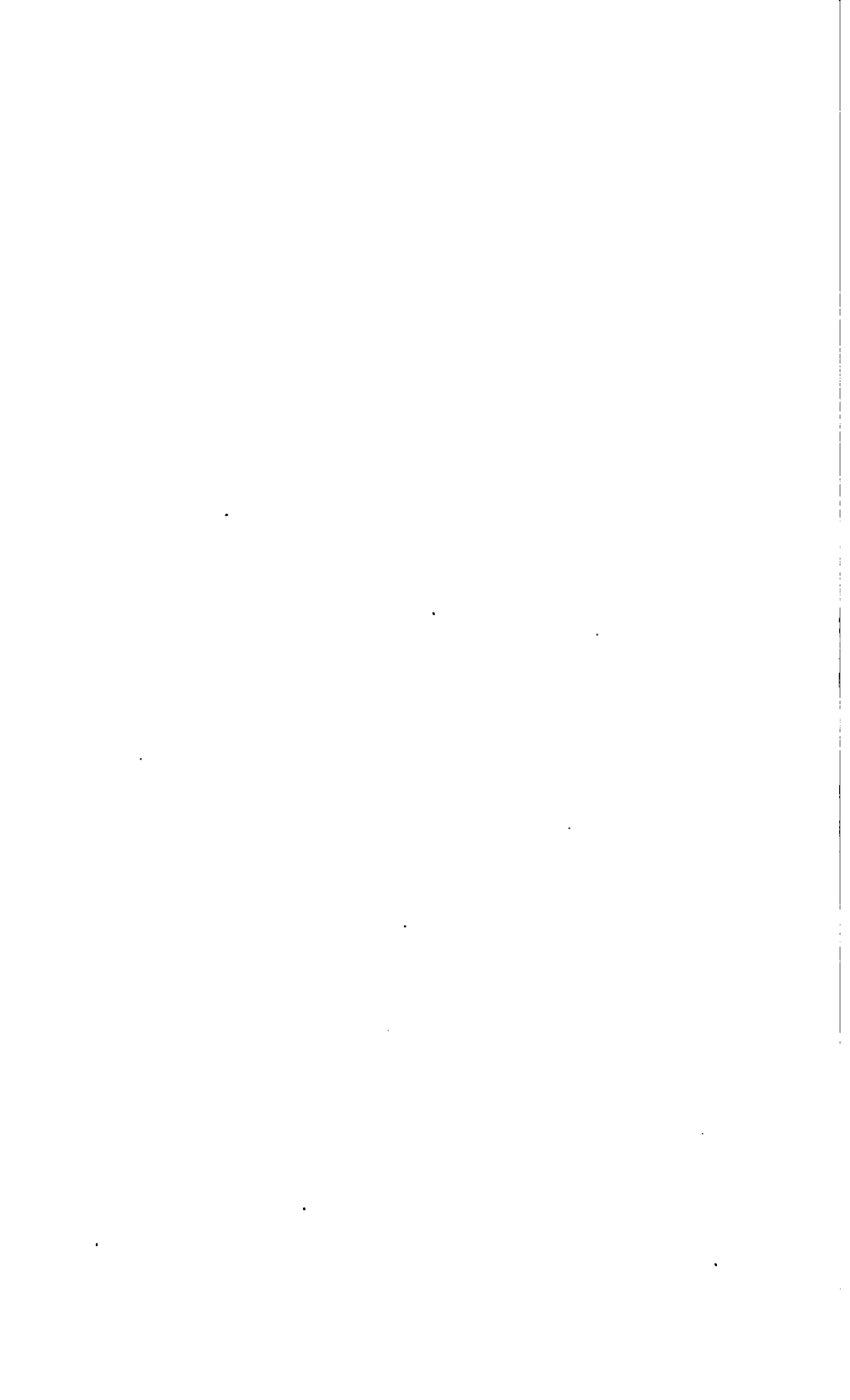
MISS RANDELS.

play several Welsh airs, in a wonderful manner. She performed first in public when but two years old, (1802,) and she could strike any note, on the piano-forte, which a voice might sound, without the least hesitation. She continued to improve rapidly, and when but three years and a half old, she had the honor of performing to the king and all the royal family. His majesty presented her with a hundred guineas. A public breakfast was given at Cumberland-gardens for her benefit, under the patronage of the Prince of Wales, Sir W. W. Wynne, Lady Duncannon, and several other ladies of distinction:—There were five hundred people present.

At the age of six years, this wonderful child could play the most scientific compositions, and sing at sight! In 1807 and 1808, she made a tour through the principal counties in England, and was admired and patronized by all who heard her perform. In June, 1808, she again performed in London, under the patronage of his Royal-highness the Prince of Wales and the Marchioness of Downshire, at the Hanover-square rooms, and excited the astonishment of a very numerous audience, under the direction of the

Hon. John Spencer. Madame Catalani, Madame Bianchi, Mrs. Vaughan, Naldi, Mr. Vaughan, Mr. Weischell, Lindley, Smart, Kramer, Schram, Leanders, Reeve, Lavenu, and several other eminent persons, gratuitously performed at this interesting child's concert, whose engaging manners and affectionate disposition rendered her dear to all who knew her.

She has been for some time practising the harp, and there is every reason to expect that she will be as great on that instrument as she is on the piano-forte. She may, with the greatest propriety, be called, *The Cambrian Prodigy*.





JACK FLETCHER.

JACK FLETCHER,

THE WARGRAVE FOOL.


THIS poor, inoffensive creature, was born at Wargrave, Berks, on the banks of the Thames ; and was, most probably, as extraordinary a being as was ever formed by nature. At a very early period of life, his parents discovered that he was incapable of earning his livelihood at any trade, or as an husbandman : he was, therefore, chiefly employed in going of errands, which he always performed punctually, and to the great satisfaction of his employers. He lived on the liberality of the gentry in the village, and always looked *en bon point*. His dress was singular, being, what is called in Berkshire, a *foul-weather coat*; he had always free admittance into the kitchens of the neighbouring gentry and farmers.

Jack, notwithstanding his weakness of intellect, was blessed with a good memory, and was

a great mimic: He made it a practice every Sunday of going to the neighbouring churches, to hear different preachers; and it was a most wonderful circumstance, that he could imitate them with such precision, that persons who did not see him would suppose that it really was the preacher. His mimicry was not confined to one person, but extended to a number.

He was not the only instance of persons with weak minds having strong memories; for it is recorded of a Mr. Pitt, of Windsor, who, though nearly an idiot, was kind and charitable, and possessed a most retentive memory.

It is not certain when this poor fellow died; he lived in the middle of the last century.







MOLL KING.

MOLL KING.

COVENT-GARDEN has been particularized for more than a century past as the scene of midnight riot and debauchery, and it is only within the last twenty years that it has been rendered tolerably decent, as the front windows of the bagnios under the Piazza were filled from seven at night until four or five o'clock in the morning, with courtezans of every description, who, in the most impudent manner, invited the passengers from the theatres into houses where they were accommodated with suppers and lodging, and frequently at the risk of all they possessed in the world.

The most notorious of these brothel-keepers was Moll King, celebrated by Hogarth in his prints of the Times of the Day; and, in the Weekly Miscellany for June 9, 1739, appears the following paragraph: "Monday, Mrs. Mary King, of Covent-garden, was brought up to the King's-bench Bar at Westminster, and received

the following sentence, for keeping a disorderly house, viz.—to pay a fine of 200*l.* to suffer three months' imprisonment, to find security for her good behaviour for three years, and to remain in prison till the fine be paid." As it was impossible she could carry on her former business, as soon as the time of her imprisonment was ended she retired with her savings, built three houses on Haverstock-hill, on the road to Hampstead, and died in one of them, September, 1747. Her own mansion was afterwards the last residence of the celebrated Nancy Dawson, the hornpipe-dancer, and the mistress of Ned Shuter; the three houses are still distinguished by the appellation of Moll King's-row. Her house in Covent-garden is now known by the name of the Finish.





POWELL. THE FIRE-EATER.

ROBERT POWELL,

THE FIRE-EATER.

—
Sum Solus.
—

ALL that can be learned of this man, is, that he had a most singular faculty of eating wood, coal, &c. that was on fire. In a rare print (from which the accompanying portrait was taken) it says, "Robert Powell, the Fire-eater, drawn from life, as he was exhibiting at Guildford: he appeared in public from the year 1718;" but it does not mention at what time the portrait was engraved. The celebrated Joseph Moser, Esq. in a very ingenious essay on Burning V. Jeandoes, speaking of Powell, says, "I would preserve from oblivion, that this ingenious gentleman, (Robert Powell) was the brother of Powell, the no-less famous pedestrian."* Now either one or the other is most probably in error; for it appears that Powell the Pedestrian was born in the year 1737, being nineteen years after the Fire-eater

* See Note to European Magazine, for July, 1797.

commenced to *appear in public*. It is reasonable to suppose that he did not exhibit his astonishing powers till he was twenty years of age, which would make him thirty-nine years older than the Pedestrian ; which is a circumstance, if not impossible, certainly very improbable.

I have made the most diligent search for the Life of this singular character, but have not been able to meet with any authentic document worthy of record ; yet, being in possession of a correct portrait of him, it is here inserted for the gratification of our readers, so that this Work may be considered as valuable for the scarce portraits it contains, as for the short sketches which accompany them. At a future period, if another edition is called for, our researches will probably enable us to give more interesting particulars.

JOHN METCALF,

THE BLIND SPORTSMAN OF KNARESBOROUGH.

THIS extraordinary man was born at Knaresborough, in Yorkshire, August 18th, 1717, and lost his sight when he was four years of age. Being instructed to play on the violin, he attended as a musician at the Queen's-head, High Harrowgate, for many years, and was the first person who set up a wheel-carriage for the conveyance of company to and from the places of public resort in the neighbourhood. In 1745, he engaged to serve as a musician in Colonel Thornton's volunteers, and narrowly escaped being taken prisoner at the battle of Falkirk. He was afterwards taken as a Scotch spy, tried by a court-martial, and acquitted. Being soon released, he returned to Knaresborough, and commenced common carrier between that town and York; frequently acting as a guide in intricate roads during the night, or when the tracts were covered with snow. No person was more eager

of the chase, which he would follow, either on foot or on horseback, with the greatest avidity. This very singular character has been present at many of the principal chases in that part of the kingdom, and has generally ranked among the number of those who were first in with the hounds. And strange as it may appear to those who enjoy the sense of seeing, he was employed for more than thirty years in projecting, and contracting for, the making of high-roads, building bridges, houses, &c. With no other assistance than a long staff in his hand, he has been known to ascend the precipice, and explore the valley, and investigate the extent of each, its form and situation! His plans and estimates were made in a method peculiar to himself, and which he found it impossible to convey a proper idea of to others. In 1795, he dictated the occurrences of his life to a friend, who published them under the title of "Blind Jack of Knaresborough; or the Life of John Metcalf."

He died at Spofforth, near Wetherby, April 27th, 1810, at the age of 93.





ANN SIGGS.

ANN SIGGS.

THIS poor woman was well known to many now living; she used to be seen most days walking the streets of London, on crutches, and from the singularity and cleanness of her dress became an object of attraction.

Her parents were respectable, residing in the county of Surry. At a very early period of life, she had to deplore the loss of her father; which misfortune, leaving her destitute of a protector, it is supposed, was the cause of her abject poverty.

Nothing but the inclemency of the weather confined her at home; as she generally left her habitation at nine o'clock in the morning.

Poor Ann Siggs for some time received a weekly stipend from the church-wardens of St. Michael's, Cornhill, which, with the contributions

of the good disposed christians, added considerably to her comfort.

We may class her as one of the most pitiable of London mendicants, and truly deserving the charity of the well-disposed. Her demise took place very recently.



JACK THE PAINTER.

JAMES AITKIN,

alias

JACK THE PAINTER.

AS WRITTEN BY HIMSELF.

“ I DREW my first breath at Edinburgh, in Scotland. I was brought up in the persuasion of a protestant dissenter; and being the only son, was treated with that paternal affection which, by gratifying all desires, begot in me the most stubborn and obdurate disposition. .

“ On my arrival in London, I applied to people in the painting way, and immediately got into employ. But business not agreeing with my inclination, I determined to relieve myself on the highway. I accordingly provided myself with pistols, and proceeded to Finchley-common. Perceiving a post-chaise, I made up to it, and, with the discharge of one of my pistols, demanded

them to stop. My success in the first attack tempted me to proceed, so that before midnight came on, I had robbed several carriages and single horsemen, and upon the whole had collected a considerable booty.

“ I returned to London with great satisfaction, and finding out my old companions, informed them I had just received a large sum of money. They congratulated me upon my good fortune, and readily took me again into their party.

“ My own excess, and that of my companions, soon reduced me to my last shilling; at length, dreading the consequences of detection, I determined to seize the first opportunity of leaving the kingdom. I then went to America, where I stopped a short time, and again came to England in May, 1775.

“ As soon as I had landed, having no money, I enlisted in a recruiting-party, and received twenty-six shillings, with which in a few days I deserted.

“ On my arrival at Coventry, I met with an-

other recruiting party, into which I also enlisted. I received half-a-guinea earnest, with which I absconded in the morning.

“ I continued in London almost four months, where I got into connection with some women of the town, which led me to commit a number of street-robberies for my support. I also broke open a house at Kensington, and committed several robberies upon the outskirts of London.

“ In March, 1776, I went to Cambridge. In my way I robbed three people I met on foot, and just before I reached Cambridge I stopped a chaise, but there being no person in it I robbed the driver of a shilling, which I afterwards found to be a brass one. I had not been at Cambridge long, before the want of money obliged me to break open a shop, out of which I stole twenty-seven shillings in silver, and about three shillings in half-pence. From Cambridge I made a circle round the northern part of England, and robbed as I went to support myself. In my way back to London, I stopped at Colchester, and soon afterwards enlisted in the 13th regiment of foot, in which I remained some time. I deserted

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from this regiment in August, 1776, and made the best of my way to London, from thence to Chichester, Portsmouth, and Southampton, between all which places I committed several robberies on the highway. From Southampton I went to Romsey, where I broke open the house of one Mr. Newman, a glazier, and stole two diamonds, used to cut glass, and several other things. With these I made the best of my way through Winchester to Basingstoke, intending to return to London.

“ One night, being in conversation concerning the American war, the importance of his Majesty's fleet and dock-yards was the favorite argument ; and it was with satisfaction that I heard every one agree, that the safety, the welfare, and even the existence of this nation depended on them. I endeavoured to keep the conversation up as much as possible ; and the more it was canvassed, more evident was the truth of the former conclusion.

“ It is amazing with what force this conversation kept possession of my mind. In the night I had a thousand ideas, and all tended to shew

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how important would be the event in favor of America, provided these dock-yards and shipping could be destroyed. The more I considered, the more plausible was the undertaking.

“ I spent two days in the contemplation of this malicious design, and promised myself immortal honor in the accomplishment of it. I beheld it in the light of a truly heroic enterprise, such as never would be equalled to the end of time. I was persuaded it would entitle me to the first rank in America ; and flattered myself with the ambition of becoming the admiration of the world !

“ I set off for Portsmouth, to inform myself of the particular situation, as also of the materials and stores with which these magazines were composed. I took account of all the ships of war in the harbour, their force and number of men. I also took a plan of the fortifications unnoticed by the sentinels, and the number of guns mounted on them, and their weight of metal.

“ From hence I went to Plymouth, where I found things much in the same situation. My

next care was to visit Chatham, with the same circumspect attention, and in which I conducted myself with the same success. From hence I went to the yards at Woolwich and Deptford, and in both places informed myself of every thing material.

“Having spared no labour in perfecting this general survey, I formed a design of going over to America, to lay my plans and observations before the Congress, as well as to procure their sanction to the undertaking.

“After a deal of argument with myself, at length I resolved to proceed to Mr. Silas Deane and Dr. Franklin, at Paris. I re-examined all my plans, threw my observations into proper order, and secreted them in a private part of my cloaths, to prevent an accidental discovery; and having made every other necessary preparation for my departure, I made the best of my way to Canterbury and Dover.

“My first inquiry at Paris was to find out the lodgings of Mr. Silas Deane. I called upon him at two different times, but I did not meet with

him at home. I at last saw him on the *Pont Neuf*, in Paris. He treated me at first with great caution and indifference, but finding my solicitations very earnest, he desired I would meet him the next morning at his lodgings.

“ I called on him at the time appointed. To make myself of as much consequence as possible, I informed him that I had a plantation in America, that I was an utter enemy to Great Britain : that I had contrived a scheme, which, if properly carried into execution, would effectually destroy the power of the ministry, and throw the kingdom into the greatest confusion, if not into the hands of America.

“ He expressed great surprise at my conversation, and desired me to give him an explanation of my meaning. I laid before him all my plans, and he at length seemed satisfied that it was practicable, and gave me a letter to a friend in London, to supply me with money ; and, as soon as my pass was procured, I set off for Calais and arrived at Dover, which place I immediately left, and took the road to Canterbury and Chatham.

“ Here I spent two days, in making some fresh observations on the ships and dock-yard; after which, I set out for London, in order to take the road for Portsmouth.

“ I arrived at Portsmouth on Thursday evening, the 5th of December, 1776, and immediately began to lay down a plan of operations. I concluded, that in so large a place, a number of fire-engines were kept, and that, on the first alarm, they would fly to the assistance of the dock, and perhaps extinguish the fire, before any considerable damage could be done. To prevent this, I thought it would be necessary to set the town on fire at the same time, in two different parts, imagining that the surprise and consternation which it would naturally occasion, would prevent people from giving assistance to either, till the flames had made such progress as not to be got under.

“ In the morning I applied at two houses for lodgings. My next care was to visit the dock-yard. My first intention was to set fire to the hemp-house, in which I secreted myself behind a mow or bundle of hemp, supposing there was

no danger of being discovered, although a number of men were employed in different parts of the building under which I placed my combustibles, and intending to go in about two hours afterwards to set it on fire. But lest this should not take proper effect, or be extinguished before it could communicate itself to other parts of the yard, I thought it would be more effectual to set fire to some other store-house also. In walking round the yard, I observed the rope-house open, into which I went, and having gone all over it, up-stairs and down, I pitched upon a room containing a parcel of ropes and some hemp, which I thought would be a very proper place to set on fire. I went away, and returned with two quarts of the spirits of turpentine, some gun-powder, and some touch-paper, which I had previously made. I drew the cork from one of the bottles, and having prepared a train of hemp, soaked in the spirits, I filled the neck of the bottle therewith, which I placed among the ropes, and covered over with a quantity of refuse hemp, which I found lying about, I placed the bottle on its side, and put the train of hemp into a paper of dry gunpowder, and having covered the whole

lightly over with hemp, I sprinkled the remaining spirits of turpentine upon the whole. I now pulled out my pistol, and endeavoured by my tinder-box to strike a light, in order to set it on fire; but the tinder being either damp or badly burnt, would not take fire. The attention with which I was endeavouring to light my match, prevented me from observing the time, and therefore, when I found it impossible to strike a light, and was preparing to go to my lodgings, I found myself locked in the house. I was a little uneasy upon the occasion, for fear of raising suspicion, particularly as I should be obliged to appear again to light the matches, which I had failed in. I went from one end of the building to the other, which was of a prodigious length, and tried every door I could find; but all was fast. I went up-stairs very gently, for fear of being heard, intending to make my escape from one of the windows; but this I also found impossible. I then went back to the door at which I came in, and knocked for a considerable time. At last a lad came up, and asked who was there? I told him I was a friend, and had come into the dock-yard out of curiosity, having never been at

Portsmouth before, and while I went up-stairs to see this great building, somebody had locked up the doors; I therefore begged he would let me out. He went away to call some other person, who directed me to a certain door in the building, at which he said I might let myself out. In order to allay their suspicion, I appeared to be very ignorant in every respect, and asked them a number of simple questions, for I very much expected to be taken into custody.

“ My next object was to accomplish the business in the dock-yard. I went first to the hemp-house, and after waiting a safe opportunity, got into the room where I had left the materials, struck a light with my pistol tinder-box, and lighted the candle which I had before placed in the tin-case under the hemp. I since find that this machine did not take effect. Having, as I thought, effectually completed my business here, I directed my steps towards the rope-house, and after waiting almost two hours, I took an opportunity of lighting the match that communicated to the gunpowder, which I believe took effect in about an hour and a half. The instant I had finished, I quitted the dock-yard, intending to

go immediately to set fire to both my lodgings ; but meeting a person near the dock-gates who knew me when I worked at Titchfield, during the time I was making my observations, and seeing him look at me very steadfastly, I ran very precipitately out of town, dreading the consequence of being taken into custody.

“ When I had gone a little way out of town, I overtook a cart going from market ; and in order to make more haste, and be less observed, I prevailed with the woman who drove the cart, to give me a lift, telling her I had to go to Petersfield that night, and would make her any satisfaction. I travelled all night without intermission, and arrived at Kingston-upon-Thames about eleven o'clock on Sunday morning, where I stayed upwards of three hours to refresh myself.

“ On my arrival in London, I concluded myself out of danger ; and began to ruminate on my plan for the destruction of Plymouth. I started for that place with a design to visit the dock-yard ; but, to my great surprise, found the guard stricter, and the admission of strangers objected

to ; occasioned, as I was informed, by the burning of Portsmouth, which was supposed to be purposely set on fire.

“ I was now in a worse situation than ever. I had observed by the papers, that the damage at Portsmouth had not answered my expectations, owing to the machine in the hemp-house not taking effect ; and to be disappointed here would destroy my plan, as I intended, after succeeding at Plymouth, to have gone immediately to Paris, to consult Mr. Deane. I consulted a number of schemes to effect my purpose ; but all were impracticable. I walked several times round the walls, which were every where so high, that I could see no possibility of getting over. I knew perfectly well the very spot where the magazines of pitch, tar, and hemp were situated, and intended, could I scale the walls, to set them on fire. I tried again for admittance into the yard, but could not succeed. I at last thought of a rope-ladder, having taken much notice of them at sea. I went into a shop, purchased a quantity of ropes, and carried them to my lodgings, which I still continued to change most nights, sometimes sleeping at Plymouth, and sometimes at Plymouth-

dock ; and completed a very good ladder in the course of a day ; and, about one o'clock in the morning of the 29th of December, I made trial of it, which, after throwing upon the wall four or five times, succeeded. I mounted the wall in an obscure lane, and on looking over found the coast clear. I turned my ladder, and let myself down into the dock-yard, intending to set it on fire in three different places ; but when I had gone within about fifty yards of the hemp-house, I heard some of the sentinels in conversation, and not being able to distinguish their words, and imagining I should be seen, I returned, and declined making any further attempt till the next night, when, soon after midnight, I fixed my ladder, and mounted upon the wall. It was not moon-light, nor so dark but there was a possibility of seeing objects at a little distance. I turned my ladder while I sat upon the wall, but in attempting to get down, the hold gave way, and let me down with some bricks from the top of the wall. I was a little frightened at this misfortune, particularly as I observed a sentinel at some distance, walking backwards and forwards at his stand. I, therefore, proceeded a little further and then returned, being too much discon-

certed at what had happened to do the business properly that night. Very much vexed at this disappointment, I determined to make the best of my way to Bristol; and, as I was disappointed at Plymouth, resolved to destroy Bristol entirely, and all the shipping. I arrived at Bristol on Monday, the 13th of January, and spent the whole of Tuesday, the 14th, in acquainting myself with the shipping, upon which I intended to make the first attempt, supposing, if I had any success, they would communicate the flames to the whole town. About midnight I proceeded, with all my materials, towards the quay. I got on board the *Savannah la Mar*, a Jamaica-man, and placed a quantity of turpentine, rosin, pitch, &c. round the mizen-mast, to which I set fire. I then went on-board of *La Fame*, another Jamaica-man, which lay at a little distance, in which I also placed a quantity of combustible matter, and set fire to it. I then proceeded to another part of the quay, and got on-board the *Hibernia*, an Irish trader, in which I placed a like quantity of inflammable materials, and a quart bottle of spirits of turpentine, to which I also set fire. I then broke open a warehouse belonging to a druggist,

in Cypher-lane, supposing there were large quantities of oils and spirits of different kinds, which would occasion a dreadful fire in that part of the town. I set fire to a box in the middle of the warehouse, which I supposed would soon communicate to all parts of it.

“Having, as I thought, effected my business, I walked almost four miles out of town, and stayed till near eight o'clock in the morning; not perceiving any thing of the fire, I returned to see whether it had taken effect, which I could do without suspicion, as I supposed people would see I had just come into town. I went to the quay, where I observed one vessel, the Savannah la Mar, was much burnt: but the fire in the other two had gone out without taking effect. I also found I had miscarried in Cypher-lane, where the box of combustible matter burnt out, without doing any damage. I was mostly vexed at the miscarriage among the shipping, as I found a strict watch was to be kept up in future, which rendered all further attempts upon them impracticable; I thought of one scheme, however, which I had some hopes of succeeding in. Observing a vast number of barrels of oil upon the quay,

situated very near a line of ships, I contrived, the ensuing night, to convey a large quantity of combustible materials among them, to which I set fire, hoping by this means to burn all the ships that lay near; but herein also I found myself disappointed; my matches went out without effecting the intended mischief, though greatly to my mortification.

“ About two o'clock the next morning, I proceeded to my new business, having the evening before fixed upon a number of warehouses, which I supposed, as it was Sunday morning, would not be frequented, and therefore little danger of the fire being discovered till it had taken proper effect. I laid matches in upwards of a dozen warehouses, which I supposed would take fire before day-light, and from their number and situation be impossible to be got under, so that I had promised myself I had accomplished the destruction of the whole town, or at least that part of it which was of most consequence. With this persuasion I left Bristol about six o'clock in the morning, and walked about three miles out of town, when turning round I thought the whole element was in flames, so dreadful was the ap-

pearance it had at that distance, which tempted me to return to be an eye-witness of the destruction I had wrought. On my near approach, the flames seemed to abate ; but I found the whole city in consternation and terror ; though my schemes had not answered my full intention. My matches had only taken effect in Quay-lane ; among the warehouses of Mr. Brown, bookseller, which occasioned a dreadful fire in that part of the town ; in every other part I found my endeavours had failed. To compensate for this I determined to make a fresh attempt on the Sunday night, and made every preparation for that purpose. Between one and two o'clock on Monday morning, I set about this business, but was prevented by the vigilance of the watch, raised by the inhabitants of the city to patrol the streets, which obliged me to decline attempting any thing further that night. I made several fresh attempts the Monday and Tuesday nights following, but the patrol was too vigilant to allow me time to proceed, I therefore left Bristol, finding it impossible to complete my design.

“ I now determined to make the best of my way to Paris, to acquaint Mr. Deane with my

success, and I reached Calne, where observing a haberdasher's shop, kept by one Mr. Lowe, I broke it open, and stole therefrom twenty pounds, some muslin, &c.

"It was to this little town, that Mr. Lowe, whose shop I had broke open, and Mr. Dalby, keeper of Andover Bridewell, had both traced me. Mr. Lowe had got a description of my person. Mr. Dalby finding I answered the description of the person advertised for setting fire to Portsmouth-dock, set out in pursuit of me, and took me at this town, in whose custody Mr. Lowe found me on his arrival shortly after.

"I was taken before the Hon. Sir H. P. St. John, Knt. who committed me to Odiham Bridewell, on suspicion of breaking open Mr. Lowe's house; but government having notice of my being in custody, ordered me to the new prison, Clerkenwell, to be examined before Sir John Fielding, relative to the fire at Portsmouth. Nothing appearing sufficiently strong against me to prove guilt in this particular, I was remanded back to New Prison, in order to be conveyed to Salisbury, to take my trial for breaking open Mr.

Lowe's house ; but my being decoyed into the trap set for me by Mr. Baldwin, to whom I disclosed the whole of my proceedings against government, brought me to a death which the enormity of my crimes deserve ; but which, through sincere repentance, I hope will be forgiven, as I forgive Mr. Baldwin, and all the world.

"JAMES AITKIN."

On the morning of his execution, he was conveyed to Portsmouth White-house, where he was put into a cart, and taken into the dock-yard. He was then drawn round the remains of the rope-house, which was one thousand and eighty feet long, and desired by the public to cast his eyes upon the destruction his mischievous hands had wrought. He replied, that he remembered the place perfectly well, and that he was the person who set it on fire ; but could now make no reparation but with his life. He was then ordered to the place of execution.

Soon after he got upon the scaffold, he kneeled against the gibbet, and prayed very earnestly for the space of ten minutes. The halter was then put round his neck. After praying a few minutes

longer, he gave the signal, and was drawn up by pulleys to the top of the gibbet, which was made of the mizen-mast of the *Arethusa* frigate, and was sixty-four feet and a half high. After hanging an hour, he was taken down, and hung in chains on Block-house Point, at the mouth of Portsmouth-harbour.

SAMUEL HORSEY,

THE BEGGAR.

In presenting to our readers a sketch of Samuel Horsey, who is well known on the town by the appellation of "King of the Beggars," it will not be deemed irrelevant to make a few remarks on mendicants in general. In a long and interesting account on this subject, by Mr. Goakman, in a respectable London paper, of September 3, and in several provincial papers since that period, it appears, that by the deceptious trick of well-feigned sorrow, (practised at this time to a considerable extent) the benevolent are daily imposed upon, "I do not mean to assert (says he) that all who solicit alms publicly in the street are *impostors*, far be it from me; but I will maintain, that some plan might be adopted, (and in a case so important why not the legislature interfere?) to prevent the genuine feelings of true benevolence from falling a sacrifice to the artful cant of pretended misery."



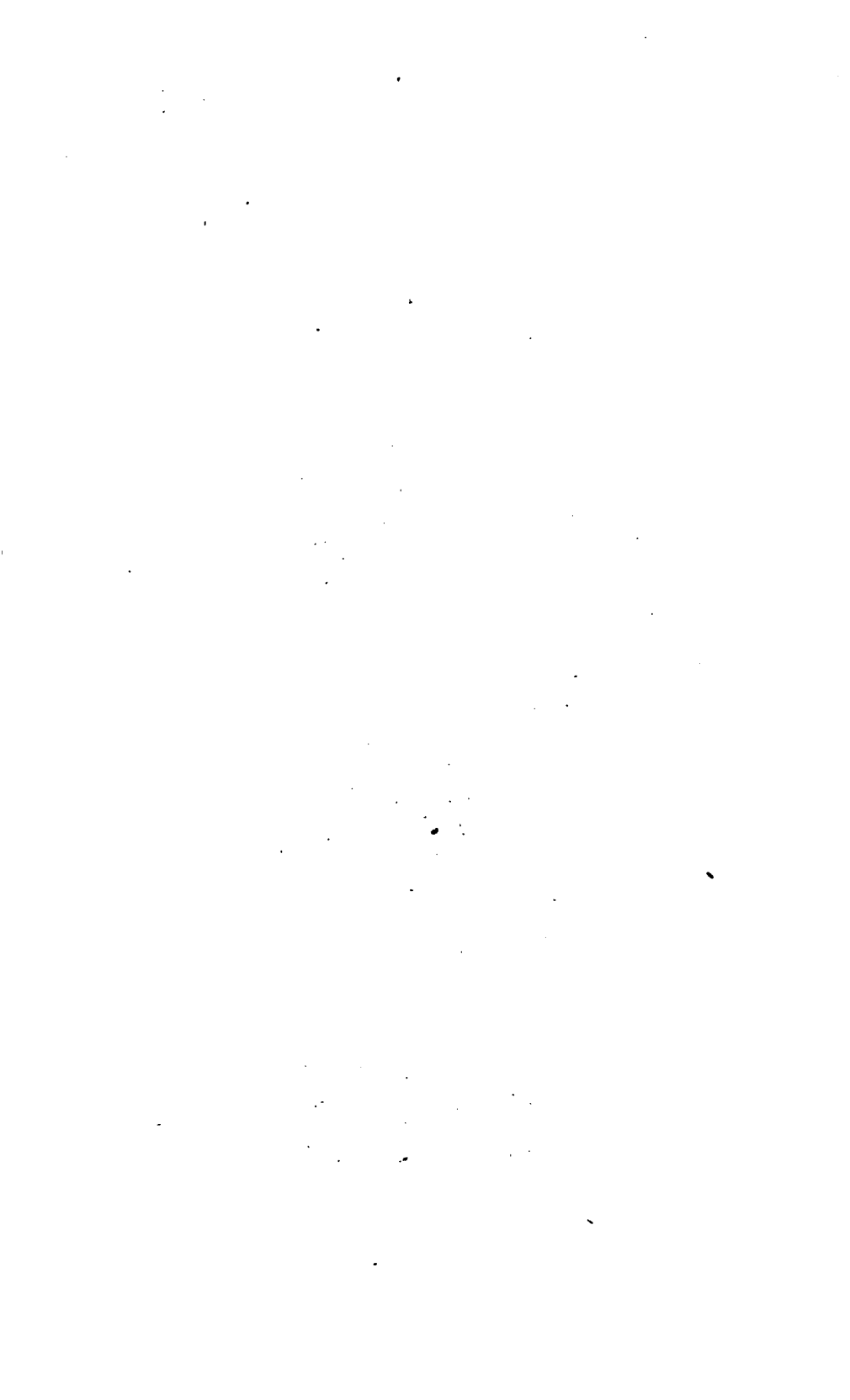
SAMUEL HORSEY.

China, and many other countries, might be adduced to prove the practicability of the plan. No beggars are there suffered to be loitering about in idle listlessness, but all are occupied, even to the lame and blind, and those who are incapable of labour are maintained at the public expence."

Mr. G. next proceeds to relate a variety of facts that have come under his own immediate notice, which, for deception and villany, are unparalleled. He then observes,—“The frequent recurrence of these impositions have operated most powerfully upon generous and benevolent minds; and have rendered many, whose ears were ever open to the tale of woe, callous to the miseries of their fellow-creatures. For the honor of a country that is the envy and admiration of the world—for the honor of the metropolitan city, I hope some plans will shortly be adopted, that will put an effectual stop to such base impositions. The ancient Romans employed officers, whom they called censors, to prevent the streets from being infested by persons of this description; and what is done in one country might surely, in some measure, be done in another.”

Samuel Horsey, though considered at the head of many of these characters, probably from the number of years he has depended upon mendicity, is widely different in his conduct. He is particularly distinguished for his civility, cleanliness, and sobriety; and never insults the public, as many do, by insolent language. That he is worthy of the commiseration and compassion of the public, there can be but little doubt. The ocular demonstration we have of his infirmities, convinces us that he is no impostor. Without legs, he *rocks* himself about the streets of London, on a small carriage with rockers, assisted by a pair of short crutches, and appears grateful for the smallest donation that is given him. He is about fifty years of age, has a strong manly countenance, and is, at present, in excellent health.

Report states that he is in possession of several houses, and though this circumstance is not impossible, there are few, we believe, who envy his lot, or who regret having contributed to the amelioration of an individual whose afflictions must ever debar him from participating in the various enjoyments which sweeten existence.





GROSE, THE ANTIQUARIAN.

FRANCIS GROSE, Esq. F. A. S.

————— a merrier man
Within the limits of becoming mirth,
I never spent an hour's talk withall ;
His eyes beget occasion for his wit ;
And ev'ry that the one doth catch,
The other turns to a mirth moving jest.

THIS gentleman was born about the year 1731, and was the son of Mr. Francis Grose, of Richmond, a jeweller, who fitted up the coronation crown for George II. At his death, he left his son an independent fortune.

Mr. Grose entered into the Surry Militia ; of which regiment he became adjutant and paymaster. This situation, as it required much attention and regularity, ill-suited the disposition of Mr. Grose ; who (as he used to say) had only two books of accounts, his right and left-hand pockets : in the one he received, and from the

other he paid. His extreme want of discretion soon reduced his fortune; and raised that latent talent which afterwards shone with such resplendent lustre. Enjoying the advantages of a classical education, accompanied by a great taste for drawing, he undertook several works of the greatest respectability, which will for ever be a monument of his abilities.

For good-nature and conviviality, he stands unrivalled.

He was the father of D. Grose, Esq. and some other children.

The following is a correct list of Mr. Grose's productions :—

The Antiquities of England and Wales, 8vo.*
—The Antiquities of Scotland, 2 vols.—The Antiquities of Ireland, 2 vols.†—A Treatise on Ancient

* This Work was first published in Numbers.

† It was Mr. Grose's intention to have published this Work in Ireland, but whilst dining with Mr. Hore, of Dublin, on May 10, 1791, he was seized with an apoplectic fit, and died immediately.

Armour and Weapons, 4to.—A Classical Dictionary of the Vulgar Tongue, 4to.—Military Antiquities, 4to.—History of Dover Castle, 4to.—A Provincial Glossary, 8vo.—Rules for Drawing Caricatures, 8vo.—A Guide to Health, Beauty, Honor, and Riches, 8vo.—The Olio, 8vo.

The following curious circumstance, relative to Mr. Grose, is recorded in *Rider's Anecdotes*. "When he went to Ireland, his curiosity led him to see every thing in the capital worthy of notice; in the course of his perambulations, he one evening strolled into the principal meat-market of Dublin, when the butchers, as usual, set up their cry of "What do you buy? What do you buy, master?" Grose parried this for some time, by saying, "I want nothing;" at last, a butcher starts from his stall, and eyeing Grose's figure from top to bottom, which was something like Doctor Slop's, in *Tristram Shandy*, exclaimed, "Well, sir, though you don't want any thing at present, only say you buy your meat of me; and by God you'll make my fortune!"

ROGER SMITH.

THIS itinerant musician is a native of Norwich, where he followed the trade of a weaver, but having received an injury in his sight, he was compelled to resign his trade for the profession which he now follows. He is remarkably civil; and constant in his attendance at church.

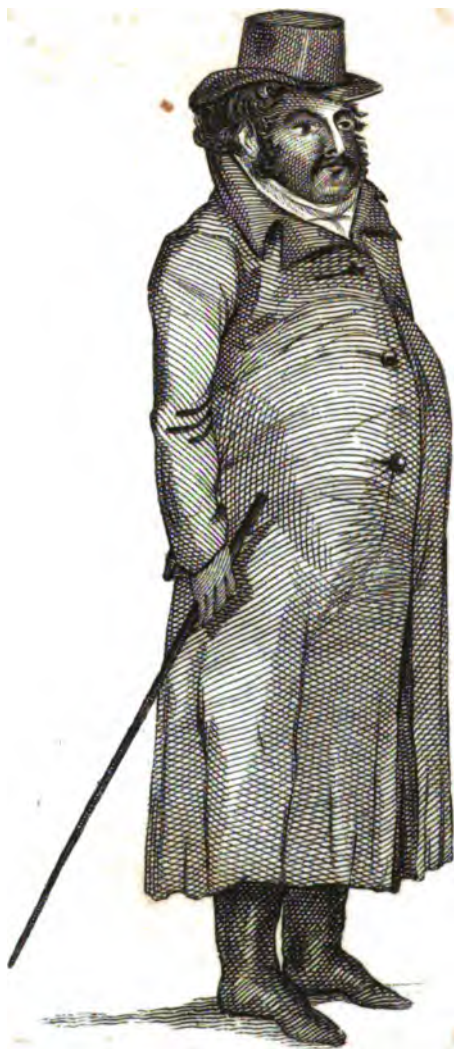
He constructed a belfry near Broad-wall, containing a peal of eight bells, from which he obtained a tolerable livelihood; which he was obliged to quit, in consequence of some building improvements. He has ever since exercised his art in the most public places, on eight, ten, and sometimes twelve bells; and frequently accompanies the song-tunes with his voice, which adds considerably to the effect, though he has neither a finished nor a powerful style of execution. While he performs upon the hand-bells (which he does sitting) he wears a hairy cap, to which he fixes two bells; two he holds in each hand; one on each side, guided by a string connected with the arm; one on each knee, and one on each foot.



ROGER SMITH.







MR VOLUBRA .

MR. VALOBRA,

CALLED THE STREET-WALKER.

THIS unfortunate gentleman, who rendered himself so conspicuous at the West-end of the town, by the singularity of his dress and walk, was born at Southampton, where his friends resided for a number of years, in the greatest affluence, keeping their carriage and splendid retinue.

At an early period of his life, he became insane, but from what cause is not exactly ascertained, though it is generally supposed that it originated in the misfortunes that befell his parents.

When young, he was remarkably handsome; and, indeed, his present figure amply denotes a superior deportment, and cast of features.

He resided a short time at Guernsey ; and, on his coming to London, was appointed to a situation in the Tower, which he held till his insanity rendered it necessary to remove him. From hence he was for some time an inmate of a private mad-house ; and, from the horror he manifests when the circumstance is mentioned to him, it is more than probable he was ill-used there.

His present abode is in Pall-mall, where he resides with his friends, who have consulted the first physicians, and are constantly using every means for bringing back his reason, and adding to his comfort.

He walks the streets remarkably slow and peaceable, with a stick in his hand, and with a great coat and boots on, even in the midst of summer. In general he has a smile on his countenance, and seemingly talking to himself ; he often stops short, it is at this moment that he is in fear of falling into a pit. For the sake of shewing the ideas of this gentleman, we give a short conversation that transpired between him and a friend :—

Mr. T.—How are you, Mr. Valobra?

Mr. V.—Very well, Sir, if it was not for these cursed gaps.

Mr. T.—Are your father and friends well, Sir?

Mr. V.—Yes, all's well!—but—yet never mind; for its right and wrong all over the world.

It is pitiable to see how often he is insulted by the weak and wicked; but he has never yet received any particular injury from them. In rain—in snow—in the heat of summer—in the depth of winter—all are alike to him; he neither alters his garment nor his walk, and travels safely in the midst of danger!

His relations have tried every means in their power to prevent his parading the streets; even a carriage and attendants have been offered him, if he would desist; but he feels happy in no other employment; he is consequently permitted to pursue so innocent a recreation. It is to be hoped, that time and attention will return to him his faculties.

JOHN GALE,

alias

DUMB JACK.

THIS unfortunate person, who was almost an idiot, and dumb in the bargain, was of much notoriety in his day; there being something so remarkably uncouth in his physiognomy and manner that he attracted general notice wherever he appeared. He lived principally about Claremarket, where he picked up a maintenance amongst the butchers, and other tradesmen thereabouts, by helping to drive the cattle and carrying heavy loads of meat, and other servile employment of that nature. Being perfectly harmless, he was rather under the protection of the mob, than, as is too often the case with unhappy objects of this description, exposed to their unfeeling scoffs and abuse. He always wore his hat in a particular direction; so much on one side, as hardly to keep its place on his head; and he was seldom seen without a pipe in his mouth. Tobacco and ale were his two grand animal gra-



DUMB JACK.



tifications, and his highest mental enjoyment seemed to be that of witnessing the public execution of criminals, who he constantly accompanied from the gaol to Tyburn, riding on the cart, and smocking his pipe with perfect decorum the whole way, unmoved at the passing scene, while

“ Clever Tom Clinch as the rabble was bawling,
“ Was riding up Holborn to die in his calling,
“ And the maids to the windows and balconies ran,
“ And cry’d out alack ! he’s a proper young man !”

From this circumstance, Dumb Jack (his general and familiar appellation) became universally known ; and from the prints of him, it would seem that a desire prevailed of perpetuating his name : but, alas ! the pen of the biographer was wanting to his fame,—the “ Monumentum ære prennius !”—Alas ! poor Jack, the rest of thy adventures must probably remain untold.

As traditionary evidence is continually growing weaker, it cannot be ascertained what was his end of life, and probably these pages, trifling and imperfect as they are, contain the only means of conveying his little history to posterity.

JAMES PORO.

THIS curious, but offensive representation, exhibits an excrescence which grew from the body of this unfortunate object, having something of the form and features of the human kind. The inscription asserts that "James Poro, the son of Paul Poro, was born at Genoa, anno 1686. The child, *as they called it*, was named Matthew Poro." This man was seen in London, in the year 1714; and the accompanying print was taken from an original painting in the collection of the Hon. Sir Hans Sloane, Bart.

The Rev. J. Greene, of Wilford, near Stratford-upon-Avon, brother of Dr. Greene, of Litchfield, gave an account of Lazarus Colorado, a Genoese,* who had a much more perfect twin; which Thomas Bartholine, an accurate and judicious naturalist of the seventeenth century, and

* See Gentleman's Magazine for October, 1770.



JAMES PORO.



royal professor of anatomy at Copenhagen, twice saw ; first at Copenhagen, when Coloredo was twenty-eight years of age ; and afterwards at Basil, in Switzerland. Bartholine noticed this horrid error of nature, and also gave a print of it in the first volume of his "*Historiarum Anatomicarum rariorum Centuria I. et II.*" dedicated to Frederick III. King of Denmark, printed at the Hague, in 1674. The Gentleman's Magazine contains an engraving of Coloredo in the dress of the times, with a cloak and band, boots, spurs, and sword ; his breast open, with the monster hanging from him, the head of which is much larger than his own.* In the "*Philosophical Transactions*" is a description of twin-sisters, Hungarians, who were publicly shewn in London about the year 1708, when they were about eight years old. "They are united behind from the small of the back to the parting of the legs, so

* Coloredo is not mentioned at all by Mr. Granger. There is a very uncommon print of him and his joint brother, by Hollar, done abroad ; and another by Marshall, that was probably given or sold to those persons whose curiosity led them to visit him when in England, where he was publicly exhibited, as he was afterwards in Scotland.

that when one went forward, the other went backward ; and when one stooped she lifted the other from the ground. They were very active, and one of them talked a good deal. They had not the sense of feeling in common, any where but in the parts that joined. They could read, write, and sing very prettily. They could also speak three languages—Hungarian, High and Low Dutch, and French ; and when they were here, they learned English. Their faces were very beautiful, and they were well-shaped. They loved each other with great tenderness ; and one of them dying in her 22d year, the other did not long survive.*

* See Noble's Continuation of Granger ; vol. II. page 400.







PRICE the SWINDLER.

CHARLES PRICE.

" Which is the villain ? let me see his eyes ;
That when I note another man like him,
I may avoid him."

THIS singular impostor was descended from a clothes-salesman in Monmouth-street. The father presaging, perhaps, that his son Charles was designed to make a conspicuous figure in the world, placed him under the tuition of a French teacher. But, at that early period, he gave many proofs of those talents which afterwards rendered him so eminent. One day stealing a strip of gold lace from the shop, he artfully dressed himself in his brother's clothes, and sold it to a Jew ; in consequence of which, the robbery was afterwards fixed on the innocent youth, for which he suffered a severe flagellation. We cannot, however, progressively give a detail of all the villainies which are placed to the account of our hero,

as some are not perfectly ascertained, and others are not sufficiently interesting. At the age of twenty-five, he had been a barker in Monmouth-street;—servant to a hatter and hosier in St. James's-street;—clerk to a city merchant, of extensive foreign connections;—and engaged in the same capacity to a diamond merchant in Amsterdam, whose daughter he debauched; and, lastly, manager to the gentleman who conducted his Majesty's small-beer brewery at Weovil, in Hampshire. He was sometimes engaged in lottery-offices, and at others in advertising for wives with fortunes, and other qualifications, and thereby obtained considerable sums from unthinking youth. But our hero was most successful in so disguising his person, as to deceive the most vigilant and discerning, insomuch that Mr. Price has been often employed to detect Mr. Patch, for in this latter habit he generally placed a black patch over one of his eyes. Thus altered in his appearance, he is said to have actually received money from the Bank Directors to discover himself. Having, under the name of Wilmot, paid Mr. Spilsbury for some medicines with a forged note, that gentleman one day related the circumstance at the Percy Coffee-house, in the

presence of the culprit, who kept frequently crying out "Lack-a-day! Good God! who could conceive such knavery exists! What, did the Bank refuse payment, Sir?"—"O yes," said Mr. Spilsbury, "and yet the bills were so inimitably done, that the nicest judges could not distinguish them!"—"Good God! lack-a-day," said Price, "he must have been an ingenious villain! What a complete old scoundrel!"

Price had often been at the shop of a Mr. Roberts, grocer, in Oxford-street. He had occasionally bought a few articles, and took many opportunities of shewing his importance. One day he called there in a hackney-coach, disguised as an old man, and bought some few things. In a day or two afterwards he repeated his visit; and on a third day, when he knew Mr. Roberts was from home, he went again, with his face so painted that he seemed diseased with the yellow jaundice. The shopman, to whom he enumerated his complaints, gave him a prescription for that disorder, such as had cured his father of it. Price gladly accepted of the receipt, promising that if it succeeded, he would very liberally reward him for his civility. In a few days he called again,

when he appeared perfectly free from the complaint, and acknowledged his great obligations to the shopman, to whom, after he had expatiated on his affluent circumstances, the short time he had to live in the world, and the few relations he had to leave any thing to, he made him a present of a ten-pound bank-note. The reader need not be told it was a counterfeit one; but, at the same time, he said, that he wanted cash for another, which was a fifty-pound note, and the obliging shopman got change for it of an opposite neighbour. The next day, in Mr. Roberts's absence, he called again, and entreated the lad to get five other fifty-pound notes changed for small ones; who telling him his master was not in the way, Price begged that he would take them to his master's banker, and there get them changed. This request the servant complied with. The bankers, Harley, Burchall, and Co., complied with Mr. Roberts's supposed request, changed them without suspicion, and small notes were that day given for them to Mr. Price.

Having found out a fit object to practice his deceptions, on in the person of a Mr. E., an emi-


nent merchant in the city, and having traced his connections at Amsterdam, even to the obtaining a letter which came from a merchant there to Mr. E. he began his attack on that gentleman as follows : accosted him on the 'Change in another disguised character, and told him, that he had received a letter from a correspondent of their's at Amsterdam, whose name he mentioned, which informed him that a person of the name of Trevors, who frequented the 'Change, had defrauded the Dutch merchant of one thousand pounds, and that the latter requested Mr. E.'s assistance in the recovery of the whole, or any part of it, if he could get it. Having thus opened the business, he then produced the letter to Mr. E. who having read it, did not entertain the least suspicion but it was the hand-writing of his Amsterdam correspondent : he, therefore, offered his assistance most readily, in any plan that might be pursued to favor his Dutch friend. After thus paving the way, he began to advise Mr. E. how to manage the matter. " To-morrow," said Price, " Trevors most likely will be upon 'Change ; he always frequents the Dutch walk, and is dressed in a red surtout, with a white wig ; he has also

square-toed shoes and very small buckles. Your best way will be to accost him, get into conversation with him, introduce mercantile affairs of Amsterdam, and by pretending that he can be of service to you, invite him home to dinner. You may then mention the business, shew him the letter, and inform him, that unless he refunds the whole, or part of the money, immediately, you will expose the matter to the merchants. By such a step you may, probably, procure a return of the greater part of the property, as he is rich, and has always cash or notes about him, and will rather pay than be exposed." Mr. E. highly approved of this plan, and was very much pleased with an opportunity of doing, as he thought, such an essential service to his Dutch friend. The next day our hero appeared on the Dutch walk, in the dress he so minutely described the day before. Mr. E. followed the advice he had received; the result of which was, an invitation to dinner, and an acceptance on the part of our great man. When the cloth was removed, and the family retired from the table, Mr. E. begged to open to Mr. Trevors, in as delicate a manner as he could, the purpose of the invitation. Our

here acknowledged the charge in part, affected great remorse, declared his intention was to pay, begged he might not be exposed on the 'Change, and offered to pay five hundred pounds down, if Mr. E. would bury the matter in oblivion.— This being readily promised on Mr. E.'s part, Mr. Trevors then produced a thousand-pound note, which he said he would give to Mr. E., if the latter would return to him the other moiety. Not having sufficient cash and notes in the house Mr. E. gave him a draft for five hundred pounds on his banker, soon after which our hero took his leave. The next morning Mr. E. discovered that the thousand-pound note he had received was a forged one, and ran to the bankers to stop the payment of this draft; but unfortunately too late; for a porter, who seemed to have been followed by a tall thin woman into the banking-house, had obtained notes for the draft four hours before Mr. E.'s application to stop payment!

The depredations of this man on society, amounted, in the whole, to upwards of one hundred thousand pounds; and yet, before he hung himself in Tothill Fields-prison, he wrote a letter

to a gentleman whom he had defrauded of more than two thousand pounds, recommending his wife and eight children to his protection. Price's disbursements must either have been great, or the prudence of his female coadjutor excessive; for at her lodgings were fixed all the apparatus for manufacturing the paper, and printing bank-notes, the plates for which were also engraved by this ingenious villain. Being thus paper-maker, engraver, printer, and circulator, it is not surprising that he remained undetected to the age of fifty-five; six years of which were passed in hostilities against the Bank Directors, whose emoluments by fire, shipwreck, and other accidents, Mr. Price conceived were much too enormous.







MARTHA HATFIELD.

MARTHA HATFIELD.

THE original print is prefixed to a publication entitled—“*The Wise Virgin, or a wonderful Narration of the various Dispensations of God towards a Child of eleven Years of Age: wherein as his severity hath appeared in afflicting, so also his Goodness, both in enabling her (when stricken dumb, deaf, and blind, through the Prevalency of the Disease) at several times to utter many glorious truths concerning Christ, Faith, and other Subjects; and also in recovering her, without the Use of any external Means, lest the Glory should be given to any other; to the Wonderment of many that came far and near to see and hear her. With some observations in the fourth Year since her Recovery. By James Fisher, a Servant of Christ, and late Minister of the Gospel in Sheffield. The fifth Edition, 1664.*” The epistle dedicatory, by the author, is dated the 20th of January, 1652.

This title so fully expresses the contents of the book, and the character of our heroine, that

nothing more need be added, than that she was the daughter of Anthony and Faith Hatfield, at Leighton, in the west riding of Yorkshire; and that in the month of September, 1652, she was seized with a disorder which the author calls the *spleed-wind*, and that on the 6th of April, of the following year, she suffered repeated convulsions, and was wrapt into several trances, till the 9th of December following, when she was restored to her senses. She continued in this state when the book was first published, with an imprimatur signed "Joseph Caryl, 18th April, 1658." The licenser says, that "the truth of the particulars related in the narrative will be avouched by many persons of worth;" and concludes thus: "We hope, reader, those that are engaged in this work dare not commit such an impiety as to gull the world with a forgery."

PETER THE WILDBOY

WAS found in 1725, in the woods of Hamelia, twenty-eight miles from Hanover, walking upon his hands and feet, climbing up trees like a squirrel, and feeding upon grass, and the moss of trees. Being presented to the king, while at dinner, his Majesty made him taste of all the dishes that were served up at table; and, in order to bring him by degrees to human diet, commanded that he should have such provisions as he might like best. He was at that time judged to be about twelve or thirteen years old. Afterwards he made his escape into the same wood, but was again caught on a tree. He was brought to England in 1726, and again introduced into the presence of his majesty and of many of the nobility. He could not speak, and seemed scarcely to have any idea of things. It was however observed, that he took much notice of his majesty, and of the princess, giving him her glove which he tried to put on his own hand, and seemed much pleased, and also with a gold watch.

which was held to strike at his ear. At one time he was dressed in blue clothes ; at another in green lined with red, and scarlet stockings. He at first appeared uneasy to be obliged to wear them ; nor could he be brought to lie on a bed, but sat and slept in a corner of the room ; whence it is conjectured, that he used to sleep on a tree for security against wild beasts. He walked upright, and even sat for his picture. Dr. Arbuthnot had him under his care, at whose house, near Burlington-gardens, it is supposed he was baptized ; but, notwithstanding all the pains he took, it does not appear that the doctor was able to bring this wild youth to the use of speech, or to the pronounciation of any words.

Lord Monboddo gives the following account of this singular creature:—

“ It was in the beginning of June, 1728, that I saw him, in a farm-house, called Broadway, within about a mile of Berkhamstead, kept there upon a pension of 30*l.* which the king pays. He is but of low stature, not exceeding five feet three inches ; and, though he must be now about seventy years of age, has a fresh healthy look.

He wears his beard ; his face is not at all ugly or disagreeable ; and he has a look that may be called sensible and sagacious for a savage. About twenty years ago, he frequently eloped, and was missing for several days ; and once, as I was told, he wandered as far as Norfolk ; but, of late, he has been quite tame, and either keeps the house, or saunters about the farm. He has been the thirteen last years where he lives at present ; and, before that, he was twelve years with another farmer, whom I saw and conversed with. This farmer told me that he had been put to school somewhere in Hertfordshire, but had only learned to articulate his own name, Peter, and the name of King George ; both of which I heard him pronounce very distinctly. But the woman of the house where he now is, (for he happened not to be at home,) told me that he understood every thing that was said to him concerning the common affairs of life ; and I saw that he really understood several words that she said to him while I was present. Among other things, she desired him to sing *Nancy Dawson*, which accordingly he did, and another tune which she named. He never was mischievous, but had always that gentleness of nature, which I hold to

be characteristic of human nature in general. He feeds at present as the farmer and his wife do; but as I was told by an aged woman, (one Mrs. Callop, living at a village in the neighbourhood, called Hempstead, who remembered to have seen him when he first came to Hertfordshire, which she computed to be fifty-five years before the time I saw her,) that he then fed very much upon leaves, and particularly upon the leaves of cabbage, which he saw him eat raw. He was then, as she thought, about fifteen years of age, walked upright, but could climb trees like a squirrel. At present he not only eat flesh, but has also got the taste of beer, and even of spirits, of which he inclines to drink more than he can get. And the old farmer above-mentioned, with whom he had lived twelve years before he came to this farmer, told me that he had acquired that taste before he came to him, that is, about twenty-five years ago. He is also become very fond of fire, but has not yet acquired a liking for money; for, though he takes it, he does not keep it, but gives it to his landlord or landlady, which I suppose is a lesson that they have taught him. He retains so much of his natural instinct, that he has a foreboding of bad weather,

growling and howling, and shewing great disorder before it comes on."

The annexed account is given by Mr. Burgess, in a letter to a friend.

" Peter the Wild Boy lives at a farmer Brill's, at a place, or rather a farm, called Broadway, about a mile from Berkhamstead, where he has lived about thirteen years. The farmer said he was eighty-four years old. He has a fair clear countenance, and a quick eye. He is about five feet six inches high ; and is still very robust and muscular. In his youth he was very remarkable for his strength. He is said to have sometimes run seventy or eighty miles a day. His strength appeared so much superior, that the strongest young men were afraid to contend with him : and it continued almost unimpaired till about a year and a half ago, when he was suddenly taken ill, fell down before the fire, and for a time lost the use of his right side ; since which, it has been visibly less than before. The farmer told me that his portrait had been lately several times taken.

“ I could get no intelligence of the old woman whom you mentioned ; but I met with an old gentleman, a surgeon, at Hempstead, who remembers to have seen Peter in London, between the years 1724 and 1726. He told me that, when he first came to England, he was particularly fond of raw flesh and bones, and he is at this day very fond of a bone, with which he will amuse himself for a long time after it has been picked by any other person : he was then always dressed in fine clothes, (the dress he remembers him in was green and gold) of which Peter seemed not a little proud. He still retains his passion for finery, fine curtains, clean breeches, smart hat, &c. and if a person has any thing smooth or shining in his dress, it will soon attract his notice, and Peter will shew his attention by stroaking it. He is not a great eater. At dinner, he is commonly content with a bit of pudding or meat. He is fond of water ; after he has drunk his breakfast of tea, or milk, he will often go to the pump, and drink several draughts of water. He is not fond of beer ; and till lately he would not drink it : but he is very fond of all kinds of spirits, particularly gin ; as he is also of onions, which he will eat

like apples. He does not often go out without his master ; but he will sometimes go to Berk-hampstead, and call at the gin-shop. They always know his errand, and will treat him. It is one of the most powerful means to persuade him to do any thing with alacrity, to sing with spirit, &c. Hold up a glass of gin at the time you tell him to sing better and louder, and he will immediately smile and raise his voice. He cannot bear the taste of physic, nor the sight of the apothecary who once attended him. He will not take physic, but under some great disguise, such as gin.

“ If he hears any music, he will clap his hands and throw his head about in a wild, frantic manner. He has a very quick sense of music, and will often repeat a tune after once bearing. When he has heard a tune which is difficult, he continues humming it for a long time, and he is very uneasy till he is master of it. He can sing a great many tunes, and will always change the tune when the name only of another tune, with which he is acquainted, is mentioned to him. He does not always hit upon the tune at once which

is asked, but he corrects himself easily with the least assistance.

“ Till last spring, (1762) which was soon after his illness, he always shewed himself remarkably animated by the influence of the spring, and would sing all the day long, and, if it was clear, half the night. He is very much pleased with the appearance of the moon and stars. He will sometimes stand out in the warmth of the sun, with his face thrown up to it, in a very difficult and strained attitude, and likes to be out in a starry night, if it be not cold. Upon hearing this, a person would naturally inquire whether he has, or appears to have any idea, of the great author of all those great wonders? Indeed I thought it a question of so much curiosity, that, when I left Broadway for several miles, I rode back to inquire whether he had at any time betrayed the least sense of a Supreme Being. They told me that when he came into that part of the country first of all, he was sent to school for some time, and different methods were employed to teach him to read, and with the principles of religion; but all in vain: he learnt nothing; nor did he

ever shew any conscientiousness of a God from his own feelings.

“He is very fond of fire, and often bringing in fuel, which he would heap up as high as the fire-place would contain it, if he was not prevented by his master. He will sit in the chimney-corner, even in the midst of summer, while they are brewing with a large fire, which is sufficient to make another person faint who sits there long. He will often amuse himself by setting five or six chairs before the fire, and placing himself in every one of them in turns, as his love of variety prompts him to change his place.

“He is extremely good-tempered, except in cold and gloomy weather; for he is very sensible of the change of the atmosphere. He is not easily provoked; but when he has been made very angry by any one, he would run after them, making a strange noise, with his teeth fixed in the back of his hand. I could not find that he had ever done any violence in the house, except that when he first came over, he would sometimes tear his bed-clothes to pieces, which it was long before he was reconciled to. He has never (at

least since his present master has known him) shewn any particular attention to women; and I am told he never did, except when he was purposely and jocosely forced into an amour.

“He has run away several times since he has been at Broadway, but not since he has been with his present master. He was taken up for a spy in Scotland, in 1745, or 1746; as he was unable to speak, they supposed him obstinate, and threatened him with confinement for contumacy; but a lady, who had seen him in England, told them who he was, on which he was immediately liberated.”

Peter became the constant topic of conversation throughout the whole country. Many vague and uncertain conjectures arose from his want of speech; so much so, that the learned differed widely in their opinions on the subject. It was conceived that as he had been sent to school, and much pains taken to instruct him, he ought, unless there was some radical defect in his brain, at least to have learnt to articulate distinctly. But Lord Monboddo observes;—“The schooling that Peter got was not such as, I think, could have

taught him to speak, when he was so far advanced in life, if he had had the best natural parts, and a greater disposition to learn than can be expected in any savage, who, not perceiving the immediate utility of speech, either for sustenance or self-defence, will not be disposed to take so much trouble as is necessary to learn an art so difficult to be acquired, especially at an advanced time of life. And, therefore, I rather wonder, that at a common country school, such as Peter was put to, he has learned so many words, many more than I thought he had known, till I got this information from Mr. Burgess : and it appears, that he has learned also the use of numbers to a certain degree ; and his progress in music would appear to me very wonderful, if I did not know that music was much more natural to man than articulation. But even with respect to it, I can have no doubt but that, if he had been taught by such a master as Mr. Braidwood, he would long before now have spoken very perfectly. But, even from Mr. Braidwood, he could not have learned by imitation merely, nor even by precept ; for Mr. Braidwood must not only have shewn him, by his own example, the position and configuration of the organs necessary for pronounc-

ing certain sounds, but he must have laid hands upon him, as he does upon his deaf scholars, and put his organs in the proper position, at least as many of them as he could reach, in that way."

On the 22d of February, 1765, this singular creature died, supposed to be 72 years of age.





DANIEL LAMBERT.

DANIEL LAMBERT.

THIS remarkably great personage was born in Leicestershire ; where he was apprenticed to an eminent engraver. Until he arrived at the age of twenty years, he was not of more than usual size, but after that period he so increased in bulk, that he became a complete prodigy. In the early years of his life, he was much accustomed to exercise, and excelled in walking, riding, and shooting; and devoted himself, as his corpulency increased, more particularly to field-exercises, but, to the great astonishment of his numerous friends and acquaintances, it proved not only unavailing, but seemed to produce a directly opposite effect. He remained in full possession of perfect health ; and whethersitting, lying, standing, or walking, was quite at his ease, and required no more attendance than any common-sized person. He enjoyed his night's repose, though he did not indulge himself in bed longer than the refreshment of sleep became necessary.

Some time since, as a man with a dancing-bear was going through the town of Leicester, one of Mr. Lambert's dogs, taking a dislike to his shaggy appearance, made a violent attack upon the defenceless animal. Bruin's master did not fail to take the part of his companion, and, in his turn, began to beat the dog. Lambert, being a witness of the fray, hastened with all possible expedition to rescue his dog. At this moment the bear, turning round suddenly, threw down his unwieldy antagonist, who, from terror and his own weight, was absolutely unable to rise again, and with difficulty got rid of his formidable opponent.

Mr. Lambert was particularly abstemious in his diet; and, for nearly twelve years, he took nothing but water. He was well-informed, affable, and polite; and having a manly countenance and prepossessing address, he gained the esteem of all who had the pleasure of conversing with him. His strength (it is worthy of observing) bore a near proportion to his wonderful appearance. About the year 1802, he carried more than four hundred weight and a half, as a trial of his ability, though quite unaccustomed to labour. His

parents were not beyond the moderate size ; and his sisters, who are still living, are by no means unusually tall or large. A suit of clothes cost him twenty pounds, so great a quantity of materials were requisite for their completion.

It is reported, that among those visitors who went to see him, was a gentleman weighing twenty stone ; he seemed to suffer much from his size and weight. Mr. Lambert, on his departure, observed, that he would not (even were it possible) change situations with him for ten thousand pounds. He had a most excellent character at his native town, which place he left, to the great regret of many, on Saturday, April 4, 1806, for his first visit to the metropolis. On his arrival he issued the following hand-bill :—

“ EXHIBITION.—MR. DANIEL LAMBERT, of Leicester, the heaviest man that ever lived : who, at the age of 36 years, weighs upwards of fifty stone, (fourteen pounds to the stone), or eighty-seven stones four pounds, London weight which is ninety-one pounds more than the great Mr. Bright weighed.—Mr. Lambert will see company at his house, No. 53, Piccadilly, next

Albany, nearly opposite St. James's Church, from 11 till 5 o'clock.—Tickets of Admission one Shilling each."

Mr. Lambert died at Stamford, Lincolnshire, on Wednesday, July 11, 1809. He had arrived from Huntingdon but a few days previous to his decease, intending to receive the visits of the curious who might attend the ensuing races. On Tuesday evening he sent a message to the office of the Stamford paper, requesting, that, as the "mountain could not wait upon Mahomet, Mahomet must go to the mountain;"—or, in other words, that the printer would call upon him, and receive an order for executing some hand-bills, announcing Mr. Lambert's arrival, and his desire to see company. The orders he gave upon that occasion were delivered without the slightest idea that they were to be his last. He was in bed—one of large dimensions—fatigued with his journey, but anxious that the bills might be quickly printed, in order to his seeing company next morning. Before nine o'clock that morning, however, he was a corpse! Nature had endured all the

trespass she could admit; the poor man's corpulency had constantly increased, until, at the time we have mentioned, the clogged machinery of life stood still, and this prodigy of mammon was numbered with the dead.

He was in the 40th year of his age; and upon being weighed, within a few days, by the famous Caledonian balance, (in the possession of Mr. King, of Ipswich), was found to be 52 stone 11 lbs. in weight, (14 lbs. to the stone) which is 10 stone 11 lbs. more than the great Mr. Bright, of Essex, ever weighed. He had apartments at Mr. Berridge's, the Waggon and Horses, in St. Martin's, on the ground-floor, for he had long been incapable of walking up-stairs. His coffin, in which his remains were with great difficulty placed, was six feet four inches long, four feet four inches wide, and two feet four inches deep; the immense substance of his legs made it, necessarily, almost a square case.

The coffin, which consisted of 112 superficial feet of helm, was built upon two axle-trees and four clog-wheels; and upon these the remains of the BIG man were rolled into his grave, in the

new burial-ground at the back of St. Martin's church. A regular descent was made, by cutting away the earth slopingly, for some distance. The window and wall of the room in which he lay were taken down, to admit room for the corpse to pass.

He was buried at eight o'clock on the Friday morning following. Having been extricated from the lodging in which he died, his remains were drawn by eight men with ropes to the burial-ground: into the church it was not possible to take him. As might be expected of such a corpse, in a very few hours after death, almost all identity of feature was lost; and although he was buried in eight-and-forty hours, his remains had been kept quite as long as was prudent. A large concourse attended his funeral: and, in the course of the day, many hundred persons from the neighbourhood visited his grave.

Mr. Lambert was an intelligent and pleasant companion; and, notwithstanding his extreme corpulence, his limbs are said to have borne a very exact proportion to each other. In his youth he was an excellent swimmer; and was

for many years much celebrated in the sporting world as a great breeder and feeder of cocks. He was also famous for dogs ; some of which were sold at Tattersall's a short time ago, at prices which proved the estimation in which Lambert was held by sportsmen of the first eminence. Extraordinary as it may appear, it is true, that he had his greyhounds with him at Stamford when he died, and intended to have taken diversions of coursing in the season !—that is, he meant to have been taken in his carriage to an open country, where he might have seen his dogs pursue the game. It is said that Stamford is the last place at which he meant to exhibit himself for money. He had a sister living at Leicester, who attended his funeral.

At the time Mr. Lambert was in London, he was the chief star of attraction ; and thousands went daily to visit him.

THE END.









